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Sliva Evgeny Sergeevich

**THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM AS A CHANNEL FOR
RECRUITING THE POLITICAL ELITE IN RUSSIA: DEVELOPMENT
OF THE MECHANISM AND ANALYSIS OF THE REGIONAL
CONTEXT**

Specialty: 5.5.2. - Political institutions, processes, technologies

Abstract for the dissertation
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Scientific Supervisor:
Doctor of Economics,
Professor
Cherkasova Tatyana Pavlovna

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Relevance of the research topic. In the context of structural changes in the modern Russian political elite, the issues of its recruitment are becoming particularly important. The need to improve the professional-business and personal-social qualities of the political elite actualizes the need for a higher education system, the development of a recruitment channel mechanism in order to ensure a steady influx of competent and qualified representatives of the elite.

To effectively solve the problem of recruiting the political elite from the higher education system, as well as to increase the effectiveness of managing the development of the political elite, it is necessary to objectively assess the state of the process and mechanism of its recruitment. This is impossible without reliable scientific knowledge about the conditions and methods of elite recruitment. Theoretical and practical justification of the organization of recruitment, development of directions and measures to improve the recruitment channel from the higher education system is an important research problem.

The central place in the education system is occupied by organizations of higher professional education, which are directly involved in the process of elite reproduction, and are the main element of the mechanism of the recruitment channel of the same name. The results of their activities are of great scientific and practical importance for the study of new approaches to improving both the process and the mechanism of functioning of the recruitment channel, which actualizes research in this direction.

Political and theoretical substantiation of modern forms and methods, development of means to increase sustainability and effectiveness, including measures of state policy in the field of training and recruiting the political elite, is becoming a practically significant task that needs to be solved in the context of the continuous development of the Russian political elite, the intensification of socio-political and socio-economic changes, the development of methods of political

management. Taken together, this indicates the relevance of the scientific problem, the need to introduce the results of its research into the practical plane.

The degree of development of the problem.

A large number of works are devoted to the definition of the theoretical essence of the political elite, its role in socio-political development, among which the most significant are the works of M. Weber, R. Mills, R. Michels, G. Mosca, V. Pareto, Plato. Their classic works on elitism formed the paradigmatic framework for the author's research of the political elite and political recruitment.

A significant influence on the formation of the author's concept was exerted by works devoted to the direct mechanisms and channels of recruitment, professional and social affiliation, criteria for including new members in the political elite of M. Burton, D. Bell, J. Burnham, H. Best, J. Galbraith, P. Osborne, J. Higley.

The idea of changes taking place in the modern political system under the influence of information and communication technologies, the possibilities of practical application of network analysis was formed on the basis of the works of M. Castells, B. Wellman. The theoretical understanding of the phenomenon of social capital, approaches to its assessment, and processes of its formation by P. Bourdieu and R. Pantam also turned out to be significant.

Understanding of the conceptual problems of the essence, boundaries, functions of the political elite, as well as applied issues of the development of the political elite, the content accents of its evolution, structure, and nature of power was formed on the basis of the works of G. K. Ashin, O. V. Gaman-Golutvina, V. G. Ignatov, S. A. Kislitsyn, O. Kryshstanovskaya, P. L. Karabushchenko, and V. P. Mokhov, M. Narta, A.V. Ponedelkova.

Vlad V. M. Bargesyan, S. N. Shkel, A. Y. Melvil, E. B. Shestopal, M. V. Krivoruchko, L. Y. Logunova, N. M. Rakityansky, and V. G. Ledyayev contributed to the development of methodological and methodological tools for studying the political elite.

Research by I. A. Zarankin, K. A. Klychnikova, I. S. Palitai, A. I. Solovyov, D. B. Tev, and S. N. Shkel made a significant contribution to the development of the theory of political elite recruitment and the study of models and factors of political recruitment.

The conceptual foundations of scientific analysis of the impact of the education system are laid in the works of S. P. Baranov, S. I. Hessen, G. I. Ibragimov, V. V. Kraevsky, and directly the higher education system on the political elite B. R. Mandel, H. Ortega y Gasset.

A comparative political analysis of the recruitment of political elites from the higher education system is presented in the works of I. A. Vetrenko, D. D. Solovyova, and A. D. Khlutkov.

Theoretical and practical aspects of the evolution and reproduction mechanism of the regional political and administrative elite have been thoroughly studied by scientists of the South Russian Scientific school of the RANEPa.

Research focused on the development of the theory of political elite recruitment, channels and mechanisms of elite recruitment is currently incomplete. In particular, the issues of recruiting political elites from the higher education system in the interests of developing political governance have not received an exhaustive analysis. The organization of recruitment of the political elite at the present stage also deserves attention. The assessment of the sustainability of the mechanism, efficiency and effectiveness of recruitment from the higher education system has not been properly developed. A methodological framework for predicting the sustainability of the political recruitment channel mechanism from the higher education system needs to be developed.

The aim of the work is to develop the mechanism of recruiting the political elite, identify the features and significance of the channel of political recruitment from the higher education system.

To achieve this goal, the following **tasks are set:**

- systematize theoretical approaches to the study of the political elite, the process of its recruitment, and on this basis clarify the concept of the political elite in accordance with the principles of a systematic approach;
- methodologically substantiate and determine the features of applying an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the political elite and political recruitment;
- to study the environmental impact of the modern higher education system on the formation and development of the political elite's characteristics;
- to identify the main features of political elite recruitment from elite and elite higher educational institutions, as well as their managerial and regulatory influence on the political recruitment channel;
- substantiate the organizational and institutional mechanism of the recruitment channel for the Russian political and administrative elite from the higher education system;
- develop and test a methodology for predicting and assessing the risk of dysfunctional recruitment of the Russian political and administrative elite from the higher education system.

The object of the study is the higher education system as a channel for recruiting the political elite. **The subject of the study** is the process of recruiting political elites from the higher education system.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the research is the works of domestic and foreign authors devoted to the conceptual and applied issues of the theory of the political elite and the methodology of its research, the reproduction of the political elite, the organization of political management, the processes of political recruitment, the resource support of the recruitment process of the political elite, the specifics of elite and elite education.

Instrumental and methodical research apparatus. General scientific methods formed the basis for the development of the methodological base of the dissertation research. The study was based on systematic and interdisciplinary approaches that allowed us to study the essential aspects of the political elite, its structure and functions, and the features of its recruitment. The use of normative and

positive approaches provided a study of the properties of the political elite. Structural, functional, historical, comparative-political, empirical, and evolutionary approaches were used in the study of recruitment processes from elite and elite higher education systems. The institutional and structural-functional analysis is implemented in the development of a mechanism for the functioning of the elite recruitment channel from the higher education system. The method of mathematical modeling and forecasting is used to assess the risk of dysfunctional recruitment from the higher education system.

The regulatory framework of the study is based on Federal laws of the Russian Federation, Presidential Decrees, Government Resolutions, and development concepts and strategies of the Russian Federation that affect the training and recruitment of political and administrative elites.

The information-and empirical base of the study was made up of materials from monographs, scientific articles, official statistics, author's own calculations, empirical data obtained from the results of their own expert surveys, as well as the use of the biographical method, official reference materials.

The dissertation research was carried out within the framework of the Passport of specialties of the Higher Attestation Commission - 5.5.2-Political institutions, processes, technologies (political science) - item 22. Political class and political elite: structure, properties, functions and dynamics; item 30. Political technologies and specifics of their application; item 32. Political risks: models and technologies of management.

The working hypothesis of the dissertation research consists in the scientific assumption that the higher education system is the optimal recruitment channel that will ensure the development of the Russian political elite.

Main provisions of the study submitted for defense

1. The functioning and reproduction of the political elite is a reflection of its diversity, internal structure, development processes, and the mechanism of communication with the external environment. The medium of communication with the environment is the recruitment channel from the education system. The

organizational result of the channel's functioning is to streamline the process of reproduction of the political elite. The social result is the formation of the social base of the political elite. The institutional result is expressed in increasing the stability of the institution of the political elite.

2. Combining methodological approaches based on the principle of interdisciplinarity makes it possible to streamline the organization of research on the political elite, its recruitment, ensure the consistency of its research, expand the methodological apparatus, achieve consistency in the study of the subject matter of the political elite and the problems of elite recruitment, attribute its properties, structure trends and patterns of development of the political elite, its recruitment processes.

3. The education system, acting as an environmental factor, forms the normative and eliminates the destructive properties of the political elite, which ensures bridging the gap between the need for a high quality of the political culture of the elite and its actual limitations. Normative properties relate to the business, professional, social, and personal qualities of the political elite, which are determined by the education system. The system of higher professional education increases the political culture of the elite through the formation of professional competencies and the deepening of managerial competence.

4. The development of ideas about the development of the mechanism of recruiting the political elite in Russia is possible on the basis of the decomposition of specific characteristics of elite and elite educational institutions in accordance with the stages of the recruitment process. The theoretical importance of the process approach is connected with the possibility of the most complete reflection of the essential content of elite and elite education. Methodological importance is due to the need to assess the involvement of each stage in the mechanism of recruiting the political elite. Practical importance is associated with the possibility of timely detection of violations of the recruitment mechanism at each stage of the process.

5. The organizational and institutional mechanism of recruitment from the higher education system corresponds to the imperatives and priorities of the Russian

state policy in the field of recruitment of the political and administrative elite. The recruitment mechanism takes into account the stages, scale and specifics of elite recruitment, which makes it possible to rationally structure and restructure the elements of the mechanism, activate appropriate measures and activities, and update the set of tools that ensure the functioning of the mechanism. The integration of elements (functional blocks, sets of measures and measures, tools), enhanced by the synergy effect of interaction, ensures the stability of the channel and the effectiveness of the recruitment process.

6. The necessity of predicting dysfunctionality and assessing the risk of dysfunctions in recruiting political and administrative elites from the higher education system is substantiated. Dividing the recruitment process into a sequence of stages allows us to identify factors that influence the channel, specify the moment of occurrence and the cause of dysfunctions.

The scientific novelty of the study is as follows:

1. Based on the analysis of conceptual approaches, the necessity of applying a systematic approach to the study of the political elite is proved. The understanding of the political elite as a set of elites, the structure of which is determined by the relations of power and the processes of political participation of aggregated interests implemented by the subjects of the political elite, is expanded in a meaningful way. The availability of political resources is a condition for preserving the power of the political elite and a prerequisite for its reproduction. The properties of the political elite are formalized in the integral characteristics of elites and are formed as a result of interaction with the environment. Specific communication of the environment is expressed in the form of a recruitment channel, whose functions are related to the regulation of reproduction, expansion of the social base and stability of the elite.

2. The methodological and instrumental-methodical apparatus of interdisciplinary research of the political elite and the problems of its recruitment has been developed, the approbation of which allowed us to formulate a set of correspondences "subjectivity-problematics": material and existential subjectivity – resource support for the recruitment mechanism and process; evolutionary-historical

– time and territorial parameters of the recruitment mechanism; psychological-technology for selecting recruited political leaders social – models of social communication and social representativeness; institutional-institutionalization of the recruitment channel; economic-economic principles of the channel's functioning; cultural-value program of the recruited elite.

3. The article reveals the natural connection between the education system and the process of formation and development of professional, business and socio-personal qualities of the political elite. The model of consistent and continuous formation of professional competencies and deepening of managerial competence of the political elite is developed. The model correlates the hierarchical levels of the higher professional education system and the stages of formation and development of political competencies and managerial competence of the elite.

4. A complex of external effects of state regulatory influences in the field of elite higher education is revealed: socio-political, power-political, regulatory, and reproductive. The nature of their influence on the recruitment of the political elite in the aspects of reproduction, development and renewal, prevention of dysfunctions inherent in recruiting from elite higher educational institutions, and ensuring elite socialization is assessed.

5. A conceptual scheme for auditing the recruitment channel of political and administrative elites from the higher education system is proposed, based on complex, analytical, problem-based and practical approaches. Implementation of procedures for strategic compliance audit, performance audit, efficiency audit, taking into account the totality of conclusions based on their results allows making an informed decision on improving the organizational and institutional mechanism of the elite recruitment channel from the higher education system.

6. A methodology for predicting and evaluating the dysfunctionality of recruitment from the higher education system has been developed, including generalization of recruitment channel indicators, assessment of the degree of change in channel indicators, normalization of indicator values, and assessment of the risk level of recruitment dysfunctionality. The proposed method has a proactive

character, expressed in the ability to direct efforts to solve problems that have not reached the level of critical risk of dysfunctionality of the recruitment channel.

The theoretical significance of the dissertation research consists in the author's clarification of the definition of "political elite", systematization and scientific substantiation of the methodology and methodological apparatus for studying the political elite and political recruitment, identifying the features of political recruitment from the higher education system, developing a mechanism for the functioning of the recruitment channel for political and administrative elite from the higher education system, developing a methodology for predicting and assessing the risk of recruitment process. The provisions of the dissertation research can be used as materials for methodological support of the disciplines of the main educational program of training in the direction of "Political Science".

The practical significance of the dissertation research consists in the possibility of using the conclusions and practical recommendations of state authorities in the process of improving state policy in the field of training and recruiting political and administrative elite from the higher education system; in the development and implementation of state programs for socio-political development; monitoring the effectiveness and effectiveness of the mechanism of the channel for recruiting political and administrative elite from the higher education system as well as its improvement. Taking into account the findings and applying the recommendations contained in the study can contribute both to the sustainability of the elite recruitment process and to the development of the Russian political elite.

Testing of research results. The main results of the study were reflected in 13 publications with a total volume of 5 pp. 1., including 4 articles in journals recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission; the key provisions of the work were presented in reports at international, Russian scientific and practical conferences in 2021-2024.

Structure of the dissertation work. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters with six paragraphs, a conclusion, a bibliographic list with 316 sources, and 8 appendices. The volume of the dissertation is 208 pages –

In the introduction, the relevance of the research topic is justified, the goal is defined, tasks are set, scientific novelty and practical significance of the results are formulated.

In the first chapter, "Theoretical and methodological aspects of the study of the political elite and its recruitment", the categorical definiteness of the political elite and the content of political recruitment based on a systematic approach are clarified. An interdisciplinary methodology is used to study the subjectivity of the political elite associated with the process of its recruitment.

In the second chapter, "The higher education system in the mechanism of reproduction of the political elite: foreign and domestic experience", a study of the nature of the environmental influence of the higher education system on the formation of the properties of the political elite is carried out. The features of recruiting political elites from elite and elite higher educational institutions are revealed.

In the third chapter, "Formation of an organizational and institutional mechanism for recruiting the Russian political and administrative elite from the higher education system", an organizational and institutional mechanism for recruiting the Russian political and administrative elite from the higher education system and a conceptual approach to organizing its audit are developed. The analysis of factors influencing the recruitment channel is carried out, and the level of risk of dysfunctionality of political recruitment is determined.

In conclusion, the results of the study are summarized, the main conclusions are formulated and the key results are summarized.