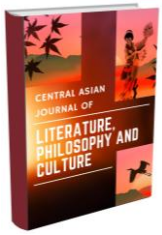

CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY, AND CULTURE

https://cajlpc.centralasianstudies.org/index.php/CAJLPC

Volume: 07 Issue: 02 | April 2026 ISSN: 2660-6828

Article

Threat, Information Threat, the Essence of Information Attacks and Important Aspects of Combating Them

Jamshid Yaxshiboyevich Oripov[1]

1. Senior Lecturer, Department of Methodology of Teaching Social and Applied Sciences, Samarkand Regional Pedagogical Excellence Center (PMM)

Abstract: This article examines the essence of threats, information threats, information attacks, and important aspects of combating them. The ideas, conclusions, and suggestions expressed in the article play a special role in the study of threats, information attacks, and combating information threats.

Keywords: information technology, information attacks, moral immunity, globalization, information age, morality, vices, sociological, paroxyological interpretation, existential, conceptual.

1. Introduction

In today's information age, the issue of revealing the essence of such concepts as "threat," "information threat," and "information attack" has become one of the main research topics facing the social sciences. Protecting people, especially young people, from such threats is emerging as an urgent issue. It is precisely such negative situations that are increasing the need to improve the system for developing immunity among young people against various threats.

Today, world scholarship is engaged in extensive scientific-theoretical research on the philosophical essence of threats, information threats, and attacks. Among such studies, particular importance is attached to philosophical research on building resilience to information attacks and forming moral immunity against them, the impact of information globalization on the consciousness of young people, the norms and possibilities of using information in virtual space, as well as the ethical problems emerging in virtual space and the age of global information. At the same time, in the context of information intensification, the comprehensive study of the moral essence of countering information threats and attacks, the formation of moral immunity among young people, and the ensuring of information security continues to retain its conceptual significance.

2. Materials and Methods

A number of studies have been conducted on the essence of threats, information threats, information attacks, the important aspects of combating them, their types, and their impact on the life of society. Issues related to threats, information threats, and information attacks can be found in the scientific research conducted by F. Jameson, A. Goldstein, F. Fukuyama, A. Buhl, O. M. Manjueva, O. I. Nemikina, T. A. Polyakova, M. Yu.

Citation: Oripov, J. Y. Threat, Information Threat, the Essence of Information Attacks and Important Aspects of Combating Them. Central Asian Journal of Literature, Philosophy, and Culture 2026, 7(2), 435-439.

Received: 20th Feb 2026
Revised: 18th Mar 2026
Accepted: 5th Apr 2026
Published: 30th Apr 2026

Zakharov, and in our country by philosopher scholars such as Sh. Pakhrutdinov, Q. Nazarov, N. Jo'rayev, S. Otamurotov, and O. G'aybullayev.

When explaining the essence of threats, information threats, information attacks, and the important aspects of combating them, it is advisable to use such methods as comprehensiveness, continuity, consistency, gradualness, normativity, personal example, and advanced advocacy and awareness-raising technologies.

3. Main Part

One of the concepts discussed above is the concept of "threat." In the philosophical sense, "a threat refers to actions consisting of intimidation, menacing, and coercion by personal, local, territorial, and regional factors aimed at weakening and, furthermore, destroying the social structures of a real society existing in space and time" [1, p. 315]. As can be seen from this definition, "threat" is one of the broad concepts, and it would not be an exaggeration to say that the meaning and essence of the concept of "threat" are fully revealed in it.

Determining the degree of danger of threats and their socially dangerous consequences makes it possible to ensure stability in the life of the state and society, as well as to provide protection against possible future risks. In this regard, A. K. Xolliyevich states: "At the present time, the existence, security, stability, and future of a particular state and nation depend on the level of understanding, awareness, and perception of the system of new threats and dangers that undermine them" [2, p. 15]. Based on the existing laws of nature, we can observe how accurate this statement is. Regardless of the form in which threats manifest themselves, they are directed against the state, society, human beings, and individuals. This is because the state, society, human beings, and individuals constitute the objects of threats.

Regarding the identification of the objects and characteristics of threats and the prevention of their impact on the social development of the state, society, the individual, or humanity, S. Otamuratov writes: "Today, threats are increasingly becoming dangerous factors directed against development, the peaceful life of countries and peoples, and the development of national spirituality" [3, p. 258]. Here, the author, first of all, seeks to reveal the degree of danger of threats and their status; secondly, he points to the necessity of protecting against the negative effects of threats, identifying the causes that give rise to them, and developing appropriate measures to address them.

Threats occur under the influence of natural and artificial factors. Threats occurring under the influence of natural factors arise under the influence of the laws of nature independently of the human factor [4]. These include hazards occurring in nature, namely fires, floods, landslides, storms, hurricanes, earthquakes, and climate change. Artificial threats, on the other hand, consist of wars, the use of weapons, the application of economic sanctions, and the blocking of the waters of rivers of transboundary significance, all of which occur directly in connection with the human factor. In addition, according to various criteria, threats may be classified into such types as internal and external threats, economic threats, social threats, political threats, environmental threats, demographic threats, spiritual threats, ideological threats, military threats, natural and climatic threats, biological (viral) threats, and informational (information) threats [4]. Such types of threats pose, to one degree or another, a danger to the social development of society and humanity.

Armed conflicts – including interstate wars, intrastate wars, proxy wars, and coups d’état – have been identified as one of the ten greatest global risks over the next two years [5].

In order to prevent such risks, NATO leaders adopted a new Strategic Concept for the Alliance at the Madrid Summit on 29 June 2022. It set out NATO’s three core tasks: deterrence and defense; crisis prevention and management; and cooperative security [6].

Regarding the dangerous aspects of threats directed against the social development of the state and society, our President Sh. Mirziyoyev stated: "Such threats and dangers as religious extremism, terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, illegal migration, and 'mass culture' are intensifying and undermining the beliefs and family values that humanity has followed for centuries. It is the very truth that these and many other threats are causing serious problems in the life of humanity, and no one can deny this" [7, p. 505]. Indeed, in today's global information age, the types of threats are also increasing. In protecting against such threats, "...paying attention to spirituality and enlightenment, moral education, and to young people's acquisition of knowledge, attainment of maturity, and aspiration for self-development is more important than ever" [8, p. 488].

Today, humanity lives in the information age, in the information space. In turn, information attacks and information threats are also proliferating within this information space.

An information threat is false, fabricated, and deceptive information organized for the purpose of intimidation, coercion, and threatening by creating dangers aimed at discrediting a particular group, society, state, or country, disrupting their socio-economic and political development, and alienating them from their religious and moral principles [9]. The basis of an information threat consists of information aimed at violating the customs, traditions, values, and national moral principles formed in the process of the socialization of social groups, social strata, nations, ethnic groups, and peoples within society.

Expressing his opinion on information threats, Professor A. Mukhtarov classifies them as a set of information such as: "information threats - criticizing the national policy of the state through the mass media; disseminating false reports; inciting opponents; portraying leaders as tyrants" [10, p. 122]. From this it can be seen that today's globalization, with the help of various means, has become a factor in increasing the effectiveness of information threats and expanding their scope by enriching them not only with books, feature films, television, the Internet, and the mass media, but also with such means as rumors, gossip, and anecdotes. Therefore, the fact that yesterday's information threat differs fundamentally from today's one in its essence and appearance is precisely the result of the assortment of means mentioned above.

An information threat differs from an information attack in its specific characteristics, such as intimidating and threatening through the risk of causing a frightening event aimed at achieving a particular objective. Another distinguishing feature of information attacks from information threats is that they are characterized by being based on aggressive offensiveness directed against the will of the state, society, individuals, or peoples, as "...a factor or a set of factors creating the risk of violating the properties of information" [11, p. 66]. An information attack may be understood as informational attacks based on destructive and subversive ideas and ideologies directed at human consciousness, without selecting any particular nation or ethnic group, and promoting ideas that contradict the views existing in society.

4. Results

A study of the essence of threat, information threat, and information attacks, together with the important aspects of combating them, allows the following conclusions to be drawn:

first, young people can be equipped with threat-resistance immunity. To this end, it is necessary to direct young people’s attitudes toward this process along the right path;

second, it becomes possible to define the tasks involved in eliminating the problems that hinder the strengthening of morality in society, thereby creating the opportunity to do so;

third, in forming threat-resistance immunity, it is of great importance to understand social consciousness and the objective laws of socio-historical development, and to unite our people — especially our young people — around real goals within the framework of particular ideas and ideologies.

5. Discussion

An information attack is understood as a set of informational attacks aimed at poisoning human consciousness on the basis of destructive and subversive ideas and ideologies in a virtual form for the purpose of violating the properties of existing information and, on the basis of such distorted information, disrupting and bringing about the decline of the life of the state and society [12]. Such attacks consist of information aimed at exerting a negative influence on the development of the state, society, and peoples, and it is difficult at first glance to distinguish, by its content and essence, the purpose toward which it is directed.

The Head of our State, while paying special attention to educating our youth on the basis of enlightenment, developing their consciousness and thinking, and increasing their potential in order to protect them from various attacks, stated: "Our main task," said the Head of our country, "is to create the necessary conditions for young people to realize their potential and to prevent the spread of the 'virus' of the ideology of violence. For this purpose, we believe it is necessary to develop multifaceted cooperation in supporting the younger generation socially and protecting its rights and interests" [13, p. 252]. We can protect young people from the influence of information attacks by creating the necessary conditions for educating them on the basis of our national principles and characteristics.

An information attack or an information threat cannot be touched by hand or sensed in advance. Only when they manifest their aggressive characteristics do they transform from something abstract into a real phenomenon. Information attacks and information threats, as a real phenomenon, are dangerous because they embody negative information aimed at alienating young people from their goals and aspirations, misleading them from their ideals, and encouraging spiritual backwardness and moral degradation[12, 14]. In particular, the fact that information attacks, as an object, are directed at destroying the moral standards inherent in the foundation of human spirituality and the qualities that determine one's humanity demonstrates the extent of their dangerous nature.

In today’s information space, the Cybersecurity Framework 2.0 (CSF 2.0), published in February 2024 by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), provides a means of assessing and improving cybersecurity measures against information attacks and information threats. It stands as the latest global guideline designed to help organizations manage cybersecurity risks[15].

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

In conclusion, in combating threats, information threats, and information attacks, it is important:

first, to develop threat-resistant immunity in the minds and hearts of young people by equipping them with modern knowledge against the destructive and subversive nature of information attacks;

second, to develop non-standard methods of combating threats manifested in territorial-regional and global forms;

third, to use such means as innovative technologies, the Internet, and artificial intelligence as social factors in developing moral immunity among young people against information attacks;

fourth, to develop scientific considerations that serve to generalize the similar and distinctive aspects of threats, information threats, and information attacks and bring them into a unified system.

Based on the above conclusions, the following recommendations should be taken into account in developing moral immunity among young people against information attacks:

first, to comprehensively reveal the essence of threats, information threats, information attacks, and the important aspects of combating them through large-scale organizational, scientific, and practical work of theoretical and methodological value;

second, when explaining the essence of threats, information threats, information attacks, and the important aspects of combating them, to pay attention to the spiritual and moral principles inherent in our people;

third, to continuously improve activities aimed at teaching the essence of threats, information threats, information attacks, and the important aspects of combating them, which are intended to undermine the spiritual and moral integrity of young people. Adherence to these recommendations will produce positive results.

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