

Milena Palczewska, PhD  
War Studies University  
Military Faculty

### **Polemology - area of research on wars and armed conflicts**

The phenomenon of war and peace, since the beginning of time have been the subject of interest of thinkers, philosophers, rulers and politicians. The basis for them, was the essence of their research, production, nature and meaning in the lives of individuals, societies and states. Through many centuries they tried to identify and understand the phenomenon of war, while searching for the means and methods that could eliminate them. Referring to the historical experience, it should be noted that war and armed conflicts constitute a social phenomenon, which requires a multidisciplinary, complex needs of research.

The word *polemology* is derived from the greek word *polemos* which means *fighting, war*. As an precursor of it is considered to be G. Bouthoul. The term was meant to distinguish polemology as a field of research into war, from the traditional military academies to war science. The two specialties are inextricably linked with each other, namely war and armed conflict. Polemology is based on three main pillars: the general sociology of war, where attention is focused on the rhythms of wariness; the etiology of war and virulence factors, which are designed to investigate structural, cyclical, and occasional causes of conflict; prospection, including polemological barometers.

Polemology is considered to be a relatively young scientific specialty, but various conceptions of wars have appeared almost since the dawn of our civilization. Polemology deals with the study of armed conflicts and wars of past, present and future. The creator of the notion of polemology G. Bouthoul is the author of the concept of predicting conflicts and wars. It is based on predicting the potential for a war by analyzing symptoms and symptoms based on historical experience. Its primary research method is discursive analysis - based on the proposition - which assumes that each link in the chain of reasoning depends on the immediate precedent and affects the next.

The study of polemology assumes that the causes of wars are concentrated on three levels: structural causes - depending on the level of intellectual development, technological development, economic, agricultural and industrial development, demographic situation, historical and geographical conditions; business reasons - especially political ones - alliances, coalitions, changes and behavior of the public under the influence of propaganda,

indoctrination and ideology; occasional (direct) causes - unforeseen incidents, provocations, etc.

Polemology in its research into the future development, predictions of possible wars or armed conflicts uses five polemological barometers: geographic / geopolitical factors (including geographic features, space and time), long-term factors (the theory of periodic wars), business cycles barometers of national structures (related to the state structure, development indicators, demographic indicators), short-term barometers (including the search for the causes of wars and armed conflicts in the sphere of motivation).

Polemology assumes that war is based on the relationship between two or more actors who deliberately choose violence in mutual relations. War is by no means a human-to-human relationship, but a relationship to a state in which individuals become enemies by accident, not as people, or as citizens, but as soldiers; not as a member of the motherland, but as a defender. Finally, every state can have as an enemy only other states, not people, since there can be no real relation between things of different kinds.