An extended abstract of a paper on the subject of:

THEORETICAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS OF APPROACHES TO THE DEFINITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF COUP D’ETAT AS TECHNOLOGY TO DESTABILIZE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF STRATEGY OF RESPONSE DEVELOPMENT

**Problem setting.** Theoretical and legal analysis of the phenomenon of state coups is an urgent need for further scientific study of the issue, and so for the practical implementation of the theoretical achievements of the study in order to counter attempts of destabilization targeting the socio-political system so as the development of the state response strategy in the context of national security and the preservation of national sovereignty of the country.

**Recent research and publications analysis.** Analysis of recent studies and publications devoted to the issue, found it’s extremely relevance, as evidenced by the vastness of the literature on the subject: normative legal acts, the philosophical works of political thinkers, dissertations and monographs, the original publications.

The leading thinkers and scientists have been interested in the legitimate and unlawful transition of state power issues from antiquity to the present. Plato and Aristotle; Hobbes and Kant; K. Britton, J. Goldstone and P. Buchanan; Edward N. Luttvak and E. Giddens studied various aspects of state coups and other forms of the change of state power in their works.
However, most of the scientists focused on the analysis and the determination of the qualifying features of state coups, their prerequisites and consequences. At the same time the issues of state countering strategies aimed at destabilization of the socio-political system, introduced externally, in order to develop methods of state response to ensure national security and defense, are not well investigated. Accordingly the subject requires more research, considering its urgent importance.

**Paper objective.** The general paper objective is the theoretical and legal analysis of approaches to the definitions and features of state coups as a type of foreign policy strategies aimed at destabilization of the state socio-political system in the context of the development of state response strategies. The specific paper objectives are:

– To determine the prerequisites and consequences of the destabilization strategies of social and political system of the state;

– To create a scientific basis for further study of the issues of development of the state response methods and the state reaction to external destabilizing strategies.

**Paper main body.** The practice in strategic planning and public administration in the field of national security proves that the expired requests of a developing society that is evolving rapidly have always overcome the opposed letter of the law. And inadequate reaction of the authorities to such society requests has repeatedly led to the unconstitutional state coups and other forms of unlawful change of state power in different regions of the world.

Although the initial illegality of state coups, they were and remain one of the most common forms of the transition of the public power in different times and in different countries, and sometimes in different parts of the world.

Modern state coups’ technologies and methods allow their coordinators to present unconstitutional state coups and their social and political consequences in a favorable context: a victory for democracy, the overthrow of the autocratic regime, the prospect of a tolerant society, and so on.
However, theoretical and legal definitions of the phenomenon of ‘coup d'état’ as an illegitimate and unlawful transition of state power, its qualifications and interpretations remain virtually unchanged over time.

**Conclusions of the research.**

The list of opportunities creating the prerequisites for implementation of the socio-political destabilizing strategies may be synthesized on the basis of their internal and external factors.

**Internal:**
- Creation of a socio-political, economic and unstable situation in the target country (often artificially);
- Informational support of the necessary atmosphere of political and social institutions by the mass media;
- The appearance of "leaders", which image is created by the use of the information and psychological tricks of political mythologizing with a view of further personalization;
- Establishing an appropriate mental and emotional state of a critical mass of society needed to start the chain reaction;
- The appearance of extremist elements in society.

**External:**
- Immediate initiation of political instability within the country from the external actors (other countries), usually through non-governmental organizations and other associations;
- Foreign support of the mechanisms and means of implementation of the social instability situation;
- The situation of political instability inspired by the part of the national elite, attitudes to which vary by the external actors depending on the conditions.