

**A summary of the doctoral dissertation entitled**

**The implementation of experiences from maritime operations in the American War of Independence on shaping the essence of maritime security in contemporary European countries**

The United States of America serves as an example of a nation that built a naval fleet to ensure the maritime security of the state during the War of Independence, resisting the British Royal Navy, which at the time possessed the most formidable fleet in the world. The independence efforts undertaken by the Americans, along with their pioneering achievements, became a model and inspiration for the naval fleets of contemporary European countries. The aforementioned issues, namely the presentation of theory and practice of utilizing the U.S. naval fleet in ensuring maritime security as a model for modern European states, were the subject of the dissertation research.

The primary objective of the research was to determine the significance that the American Continental Navy brought to the establishment of an independent state, ensuring its maritime security, and its influence on the formation of naval forces in modern European countries.

By defining the subject of the research and setting the main research objective, it was possible to formulate the primary research problem, which constituted the first stage of the research process.

In line with the previously determined subject of research, the main research problem was formulated in the form of the following question: How did the establishment and development of the naval fleet affect the maritime security of the United States of America and the process of creating maritime security for contemporary European countries?

Based on the main research question and specific issues, the following working hypothesis was generated: The maritime experiences from the American Revolutionary War influenced the shaping of maritime security for the newly established nation and contemporary European countries.

In order to address the primary research question and specific issues, the working hypothesis was decomposed into the following specific hypotheses:

1. I posit that the establishment of the United States was conditioned by the increasing dissatisfaction of the British colonies in North America, driven by numerous

regulations imposed by Great Britain that limited the colonies' economic freedom and the intensification of independence aspirations.

2. I surmise that the growing need to protect trade and wage war against the British Empire at sea laid the foundation for the creation of the United States Navy.
3. I conjecture that the emergence and development of the American continental fleet contributed to the United States regaining its independence.
4. I anticipate that the U.S. Navy served as a model for building maritime security in modern European countries.

To verify the formulated working hypothesis, and thereby achieve the set research objectives and address the posed research question, the following research methods, techniques, and tools were utilized.

The literature analysis and critique method, the source analysis and critique method, and the comparative analysis were employed. Additionally, the document research method was utilized, including both quantitative and qualitative content analysis, taking into account research procedures that involve document collection and preliminary selection, determining the authenticity of the gathered materials, verifying their credibility, and analyzing and interpreting the obtained information and derived conclusions. Visual analysis was also conducted, focusing on visual elements such as photographs or graphics. Furthermore, in the research process, cognitive processes were used to aid in analysis, interpretation, and inference, such as observation, hypothesis formulation, deductive and inductive reasoning, analysis, synthesis, critical thinking, evaluation, drawing conclusions, and reflection.

The execution of the research process allowed for a deeper understanding of the political conditions leading to the establishment of the United States of America, the significance of the formation of the U.S. naval fleet and its role in the country's security system, and an assessment of the impact of the U.S. naval fleet on shaping maritime security in contemporary European countries. The set research objective, which was to determine the significance of the American continental fleet in the establishment of an independent state, ensuring its maritime security, and its influence on the formation of naval fleets in contemporary European countries, can be considered as achieved.

As a result of the critical literature analysis, comparative analysis, and document research, it can be concluded that the main working hypothesis has been positively verified. This validates the assertion that the initially formulated primary research problem and the detailed problems have been resolved. The experiences from maritime operations in the

war for the independence of the United States of America influenced the shaping of the essence of maritime security for the newly established state and contemporary European countries.

The final result of the conducted scientific research takes the form of the doctoral dissertation, which is organized into three substantive chapters, preceded by an introduction and concluded with a summary, a list of references, and a table of contents for tables and figures.

In the first chapter, the political and economic factors leading to the formation of the United States are explored. This delves into European colonialism, particularly by powers like England, France, Spain, and the Netherlands, in areas now known as the U.S. The chapter discusses the blend of European influences with experiences in the New World, leading to a distinct "American" identity among colonists. The escalating tensions between the colonists and the British Empire, fuelled by issues like the Navigation Acts and the growing aspiration for self-rule, culminated in pivotal events like the Battle of Lexington and Concord and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

The second chapter delves into the formation and role of the American naval fleet in the 18th century. It examines the Continental Navy's evolution, highlighting decisions by the Continental Congress about the procurement and training of ships and crews. The role of institutions like the Naval Committee in fleet management is discussed, alongside administrative and operational challenges. A comparative analysis is presented on the maritime strengths of the colonists versus Great Britain during the American Revolution, covering details about ships, crew expertise, and conflicting strategies. The chapter underscores the Continental Navy's pivotal role in the maritime security of the U.S. during its fight for independence. It operated both defensively, safeguarding the coastline and key ports, and offensively, targeting British supply routes and engaging in diversionary tactics. These actions, despite being limited in scale, greatly influenced the war's trajectory. Lastly, the strategic and economic significance of privateering is explored. Privateers not only supported the war effort by supplying weaponry but also provided crucial economic support by ensuring trade continued amidst war-induced disruptions.

Chapter three examines the influence of the American naval fleet, drawing from its experiences in the War of Independence, on the maritime security of selected European nations before and after World War II. The chapter showcases how American innovations, like combat submarines and torpedoes, revolutionized naval warfare. The introduction of steam propulsion enabled the construction of larger ships equipped with heavier weaponry,

thereby enhancing navigational independence. The construction of armoured battleships, particularly the monitors, led to a global naval arms race, with countries like Finland and Sweden incorporating these designs for their unique coastal challenges. By establishing the Marine Corps and a naval code, the U.S. emphasized the significance of formal structures in maritime operations, a principle European nations have integrated into their defence structures. The strategies used by the Americans during their revolution, from blockades to naval landing operations, were adapted by European countries for their specific needs. Lastly, the naval strategies of Alfred Thayer Mahan, formulated at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, have resonated with and influenced contemporary maritime strategies and geopolitics in European countries.