

The Impact of Military Operations on the Landscape Environment and Its Ecological Consequences

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The paper analyzes the role of military geography and military engineering geography in the modern world. It particularly examines the role of geographical actors in military activities, specifically issues related to the impact of terrain, climate conditions, hydrological features, and soil-vegetation cover on combat actions and operations. The ecological consequences of the de-anthropogenization of belligerent anthropogenic landscapes, among other topics, are also discussed.

Mountains have attracted human attention since ancient times and have always played a significant role in the history of humanity. From an anthropogeographical perspective, mountains represent a highly diverse and often complex set of geographical conditions. Analyzing these conditions allows one to highlight the natural features of the landscape of a given mountain and their connection to the preparation of a country's territory for warfare. When choosing a certain mountain pass for communication routes, historical, economic, and strategic factors often play a larger role than natural conditions. The strategic and military importance of mountains (such as the Alps, the Caucasus, the Himalayas, the Balkans, and others) historically derives from the fact that they represent natural borders between states and significantly affect a country's defense capabilities. High peaks, valleys, and dense forest cover complicate the opponent's ability to maneuver and move, giving an advantage to the side in a defensive position. As a result, from ancient times to the present day, mountainous regions have been the scene of the development of wars and various types of geopolitical conflicts.