

## EDUCATION AS A SMART POWER TOOL FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

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**Abstract:** *In the theory of international relations, the notion of power is the starting point of most conceptions of political thought, being the basic component that determines the behavior of the state in its external relations. Regardless of the perspective we choose in defining power, it is the result of combining three elements: resources, will and ability. Nowadays, the power of a state is determined by its entire structure, not just the military dimension, as it used to be in the past. National security and the people's level of education are in a strong and direct relationship. Capitalizing on human potential is the core of creating a secure society in a competitive market economy, therefore increasing the well-being of citizens and a high standard of living. Thus, in a dynamic process of globalization, state with an elevated level of education is considered a strong actor on the international arena.*

*Education can be considered an element of smart power, combining elements of economic nature (hard power) and human capital (soft power) and the results of the education system built the society features. Education is a safe and profitable long-term investment on which the future of any nation depends, and an important smart power tool for achieving the national security goals.*

**Keywords:** *Smart power, national security, strategic, military education, defense strategy.*

### **Introduction**

The category of national security represents the basic notion that designates the essence, the core of the various types of security. It can be interpreted as the capacity of the territorial state community to satisfy, despite the existence of objective dangers, those requirements that are necessary for its self-preservation. At the same time, the national security or the security of the country is directly related to the economic, political, technical-scientific, demographic aspects of the development of the society, to the state of development of the medical culture, of the training and education, etc. Romania's national defense strategy reflects the need to

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