## Development of national army hand-to-hand combat as a sport

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## Abstract

**Objective of the study** was to substantiate the stages of development of army hand-to-hand combat as a sport in Russia. **Methods and structure of the study.** The scientific work used the analysis and generalization of scientific literature, statistical data, the practice of organizing army hand-to-hand combat (AHHC); specific methods of the history of pedagogy: historiographic, determinant-genetic and problem-genetic analyzes of the problem.

Results and conclusions. Historical analysis has shown that the process of formation and development of sports army hand-to-hand combat is associated with socio-political and economic transformations in the USSR and Russia. During the development of periodization, the influence of the significance of historical, cultural, socio-political and economic factors in the development of our society and state, the idea of the gradual formation of individual elements of the AHHC was taken into account. Relying on the criterion "essential characteristics of army hand-to-hand combat as a unique system of martial arts" made it possible to identify the following stages of its development in our country: 1) 20s-70s XX century - the prerequisites for the emergence and the period of "hidden" development of the AHHC in line with the various types of existence of hand-to-hand combat in our country, primarily sambo; 2) 1979 - 1995 - the period of emergence (the first championship of the airborne troops in the AHHC) and the formation of army hand-to-hand combat; the development of army hand-tohand combat as a military-applied sport, its cultivation only in army units; 3) 1995 - 2016 - the progressive development of army hand-to-hand combat in Russia; cultivation of AHHC not only in army units, but also in police units, as well as in sports organizations; 4) 2016 - until now - the controversial nature of the development of army hand-to-hand combat in Russia: on the one hand, the increasing importance of the AHHC as a means of patriotic education of the younger generation, improving this sport (athletes' equipment, tactics, increasing the speed and dynamics of combat, increasing entertainment of duels, quantitative development of competitions, etc.) AHHC; and on the other hand, an increase in the competition of the AHHC from other types of martial arts; reduction in the number of children involved in AHHC.

Keywords: stages of development, Russia, kind of sport, army hand-to-hand combat.

**Introduction.** Since its inception in 1979, the domestic army hand-to-hand combat (AHHC) as a sport has deeply rooted among the "military and civilian population" of our country, determined the development of a number of types of martial arts in Russia [1, 2]. Dramatic geopolitical events of recent times have actualized the importance of the AHHC as an effective means of patriotic education of youth. In the face of a potential threat of external aggression, one of the main directions of the country's policy is the active preparation of young people for military service [4]. Since the issue of periodization of the history of the development of AHHC in Russia has not yet been re-

flected in the scientific literature, the isolation of the stages of development of this sport is of undoubted research interest.

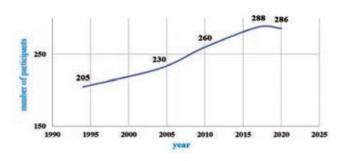
**Objective of the study** was to substantiate the stages of development of army hand-to-hand combat as a sport in Russia.

**Methods and structure of the study.** The scientific work used the analysis and generalization of scientific literature, statistical data, the practice of organizing army hand-to-hand combat; specific methods of the history of pedagogy: historiographic, determinant-genetic and problem-genetic analyzes of the problem. **Results of the study and their discussion.** Historical analysis has shown that the process of formation and development of sports army hand-to-hand combat is associated with socio-political, economic and cultural transformations in the USSR and Russia. During the development of periodization, the influence of the significance of historical, cultural, sociopolitical and economic factors in the development of our society and state, the idea of the gradual formation of individual elements of army hand-to-hand combat was taken into account. Relying on the criterion "essential characteristics of army hand-to-hand combat as a unique system of martial arts" made it possible to identify the stages of its development in our country.

The chronological framework of the stage of prerequisites for the emergence and the period of "hidden" development of army hand-to-hand combat includes the 20s-70s XX century. The historical fact of the end of the civil war in Russia (the beginning of the 1920s) was taken as the starting point of reference, and as the final point - 1979 - the holding in the USSR of the first championship of the Airborne Forces in AHHC. The historical prerequisites for the development of the sport under study are determined by the change in the socio-economic formation in Russia as a result of the socialist revolution of 1917. This entailed the creation of a national system of physical culture based on socialist ideology; improving the methods of preparing troops for hand-to-hand combat in the face of a changing nature of combat operations and the modernization of the army; the organization in the early 1920s of sports sections and societies, where methods of defense and attack without weapons were studied (in 1923, a self-defense section under the leadership of V. A. Spiridonov worked in the Dynamo sports society). The difficult military-political situation around the USSR, scientific and technological progress, forced us to look for effective ways to qualitatively prepare personnel for hand-to-hand combat.

The methodological component of the sociocultural prerequisites is associated with the activities of such propagandists and organizers of martial arts as V.A. Spiridonov, A.A. Kharlampiev, V.S. Oshchepkov, N.N. Oznobishin, V.P. Volkov, A.A. Kadochnikov and others. Appearance in the 70s-80s in the USSR, numerous underground sections "karate", "combat sambo", the development of the school of martial arts (A.A. Kadochnikov, G.V. Popov, T.R. Kasyanov, etc.) gave an impetus to the further development of martial arts. The period of emergence (the first championship of the Airborne Forces in the AHHC in 1979) and the formation of army hand-to-hand combat (1979-1995) is characterized by the development of army hand-tohand combat as a military-applied sport, its cultivation only in army units. In 1985, army hand-to-hand combat was included in the Unified Sports Classification as an independent sport, and in 1989 it was introduced into the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation as a military-applied sport, which made it possible In 1991, to hold the 1st championship of the Armed Forces of the USSR in army hand-to-hand combat in Leningrad. In 1992, under the auspices of the Army Association of Contact Types of Martial Arts, the Federation of Army Hand-to-Hand Combat was created, and since 1994 championships of the Russian Federation among young men have been held [3, 5]. The stage of progressive development of army hand-to-hand combat in Russia (1995 - 2016) was distinguished by the creation of its regulatory framework as a result of the adoption of a number of Federal laws (1998 and 2007), the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation (2009), the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation (2012), the order of the Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation (2013), substantiation of rank norms and requirements for the assignment of sports ranks (titles), clarification of the conditions and rules for holding competitions in military-applied sports (2015), etc. In addition, important organizational events took place: in 1995, the all-Russian public organization "Federation of Army Hand-to-Hand Combat of Russia" was created; in 1993-1996 army hand-to-hand combat was included in the military sports classification, and in 1997-2000 - in the Unified All-Russian Sports Classification. During the period under review, AHHC was cultivated not only in army units, but also in police units, as well as in sports organizations. The coverage of the regions of distribution of AHHC increased from 52 to 63 with a simultaneous increase in the number of people involved up to 500,000 people in 2010. Along with this, in 2007-2016 actively developed children's and youth army hand-to-hand combat. The creation in 2016 of the "Sports Federation of Army Hand-to-Hand Combat of Russia" became a milestone in a new, albeit contradictory in nature, stage in the development of this sport. On the one hand, the process of the immanent development of army hand-to-hand combat as a sport continued: the equipment of athletes was improved (AHHC is one of the toughest sports), the tactics of combat, its speed and dynamics increased,

the entertainment of fights increased, the number of competitions increased (see figure) and others. Objectively, the importance of army hand-to-hand combat as an effective means of patriotic education of the younger generation increased.



Dynamics of the number of participants in the Russian Championships in AHHC for 1994-2020

On the other hand, increased competition in AHHC from other types of martial arts, the inability to officially assign junior sports categories to athletes at the age of 7 to 14 years, leads to a reduction in the number of children involved in this martial art.

Conclusions. The historical and pedagogical grounds for the periodization of the formation and development of AHHC as a sport in Russia are determined. The proposed periodization made it possible to trace the features of the formation and development of domestic army hand-to-hand combat as a sport against the backdrop of economic, political, socio-cultural determinants of the development of our country. The revealed prerequisites for the formation of army hand-to-hand combat complement the ideas about the development of martial arts in the Soviet period and the role of objective and subjective factors in the formation of the Soviet system of physical culture and sports. Reconstruction of the periods of development of AHHC shows that by the beginning of the XXI century AHHC in Russia began to have all the characteristics and elements inherent in the sport. The synchronous analysis of the selected periods makes it possible to identify the prospects, directions and optimal conditions for improving the sports army hand-tohand combat in Russia.

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