

SUMMARY

The doctoral dissertation addressed issues related to personal security as perceived in situations involving risks arising from the use of black powder firearms and their replicas.

The author's primary objective was to determine the level of personal security among users of black powder firearms. The theoretical aim of the research was to systematize knowledge concerning the personal security of black powder firearm users, whereas the utilitarian goal was to recommend approaches for estimating and applying metrological methods to parameterize black powder firearms and their replicas in the context of user safety¹.

The main research problem of the dissertation was formulated as follows: *How can personal security support for black powder firearm owners be defined and how can the parameters of such firearms be assessed?*

The principal research hypothesis assumed that: *The essence of personal security and the associated risks should be linked to a proper understanding of individual needs and the definition of personalization. The complexity and determinants of human personal security were associated with institutional and formal norms that did not take into account the specific characteristics of composing security for black powder firearm users. This state could be mitigated by the application of appropriately selected methods and measuring devices necessary for evaluating the operational quality of such firearms.*

In order to address the main and specific research problems, a series of theoretical and empirical studies were conducted. Theoretical methods such as analysis, synthesis, comparison, analogy, abstraction, generalization, and inference were applied throughout the research process. Among the empirical methods, a diagnostic survey, expert interviews, non-standardized observation, and experimental research were employed.

A survey was conducted among individuals with active contact and experience with firearms, either as a hobby, profession, or within an educational context. Expert interviews were carried out with specialists possessing extensive professional achievements and expertise in firearms and their significance for personal security. The use of non-standardized observation was justified by the flexibility it provides in the choice of data collection methods and the scope of observation. Experimental research was conducted on a replica of the Remington 1858 New Army black powder revolver.

¹ The author is aware of the frequent use of the term *personal security* in this dissertation. This repetition is intentional and results from the necessity of maintaining clarity and terminological consistency.

The dissertation consisted of an abstract, introduction, four chapters, conclusion, bibliography, and a list of photographs, figures, tables, and charts. The appendices included the expert interview questionnaire, survey questionnaire, list of experts, and observation sheets.

Chapter 1 had a strictly theoretical and introductory character. It discussed the justification for undertaking the research, defined the subject and objectives of the study, and presented the research problems and hypotheses (main and specific). The organization and course of the research were also described.

Chapter 2 focused on the essence of personal security and the associated risks, presenting an original theoretical reflection on the key issues related to the analysis of this category of security. The chapter was theoretical in nature.

Chapter 3 examined the specific aspects of composing security for black powder firearm users. It presented a historical overview of this category of weapons, emphasizing their evolution, cultural and technological significance, and the phenomenon of their social impact.

Chapter 4 analyzed issues related to estimating the wear condition of black powder firearms, selecting appropriate measuring instruments, and included the final conclusions.

In the conclusion, the conducted research was summarized, and references were made to the main and specific hypotheses as well as to the identified research problem.