

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** « Middle East sector direction of foreign policy of France».

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**Relevance of the research issue** has a complex nature. The foreign policy of France towards Middle East has as a certain success, and great difficulties and challenges. Research of features of the Middle East e direction of French foreign policy, understanding the factors that determine the national interests and foreign policy objectives of the country, a study of practical steps to implement them is a popular and necessary in the scientific and practical-political terms. This allows you better understanding the essence of the Middle East policy of France, as well as reasonably predict the near-term next steps of Paris to stabilize the situation in the Middle East.

Finally, the relevance of the topic is due to the fact that a comprehensive study of French foreign policy at the present stage is needed for the Russian scientific and expert communities. This is especially important in the current instability of the international system and its Middle East segment, which is extremely important for Russia.

**The purpose:** determine the place of Middle East in the modern French foreign policy.

**Research objectives:**

- Examine the conceptual basis of the study of foreign policy;
- Consider the basic mechanisms and tools for implementation of foreign policy;
- Identify national interests of France in the Middle East;
- To identify the key directions of French Middle Eastern policy.

**Scientific novelty of the research** lies in the fact that it is a comprehensive analysis of the modern French foreign policy towards Middle East. This research identifies peculiarities of formation of French foreign policy as a regional power, which seeks to strengthen its position in the international arena.

**Structure:** the two chapters, containing four paragraphs, the conclusion, the 88-reference bibliography (46 of which are in foreign languages). The total volume is 84 pages.

**Summary:** France's foreign policy has since been increasingly inconsistent. On the one side it aimed at placing human rights concerns at the core of its regional strategy – for instance when condemning Assad's actions – but on the other it appeared as a bare pragmatic approach – as in the case of the recent sale of 24 Rafale fighter jets to the Egyptian regime although it has undertaken a harsh breakdown on its opponents since 2012, especially the Muslim Brotherhood. Such

choices contradict the French official position pretending to encourage Arab countries along the path of democratic transitions.

This paradoxical policy also has a negative impact on a national scale in France: it feeds the radicalization within French society and it is used as another reason – or at least a pretext – for young Muslims to join jihadists groups in Syria and elsewhere.

With the outbreak of the “Arab Springs” France started to forge a new policy based on the idea of reaching out to civil societies, including the Muslim Brotherhood. It demonstrated a will to start a dialogue with Ennahdha in Tunisia as well as the Justice and Development party in Egypt. The establishment of a dialogue with Islamist parties did not reach out to Hamas in Palestine, which is still officially considered a terrorist organization by the EU. In any case, with the failure of democratic transitions – the chaos in Libya, a sort of restoration in Egypt, and the ongoing civil war in Syria – France realigned its policy with Western powers prioritizing the need to contain a bigger threat.

Although France has long been critical of the US “war on terror”, the growing power of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant led France to basically reposition itself alongside the United States. Syria may remain – despite some inconsistencies – the last country reflecting France’s desire to implement diplomacy based also on values.