

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** The modern foreign policy of Turkey in the region of Levant

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**Relevance of the research issue:** in the modern era one of the most important fields of Turkey's foreign policy is the strengthening of Ankara's position in the Middle-East region. It should be emphasized that Turkey has all the characteristics to obtain the status of a regional leader. Turkey has an advantageous geostrategic position, which determines its interest to extend one's influence in the region. Moreover, Turkey has one of the most advanced and largest armies among the Middle-East states, and also seeks diversification of its economic relations with the countries of the Middle East region, especially in the Levant subregion.

In attempt to improve its relations with the Arab countries of the Middle East, Turkey uses various instruments of implementation of its foreign policy. Considering the fact that the Levant is the cornerstone of Turkey's entire Middle East policy, Ankara uses the tools of hard, soft and economic power in its relations with the states of the region. For example, the presence of actively-developing economic relations with Jordan and Iraq, demonstrates Turkey's desire to get the role of the main economic partner among the Arab states of the Levant. However, the open interference in the Syrian military conflict and the negative attitude to the ruling regime in Damascus indicate the willingness to use "tough" tools to pursue its policy, which is largely aimed at forming a new "pro-Turkish" regional system. Accordingly, the actions which Ankara will take in the context of building relations with its neighbors will influence the vector of development of the Syrian and Arab-Israeli conflicts, as well as the dynamics in the Middle East and especially Levant region in particular.

Thus, the abovementioned argumentation makes it possible to assert that the problem considered within the framework of this final qualifying work, has theoretical and practical significance, which in many respects determines the choice of the topic.

**Purpose of the study:** to analyze the current state of Turkey's foreign policy in the Levant region.

**Research objectives:**

- to analyze the doctrinal foundations of Turkey's foreign policy formation;
- to explore the main instruments of implementation of the modern foreign policy of Turkey;
- to determine the place and role of the Levant region within the foreign policy priorities of Turkey;
- to analyze the main directions of Turkey's foreign policy as applied to the Arab states of the Levant at the present stage;
- to explore the nature of the current condition and prospects of the development of Turkish-Israeli relations;
- to reveal the significance of the "Kurdish problem" in the regional policy of modern Turkey.

**Scientific novelty of the study:**

– It is revealed that Turkey uses different methods of influence ("tough", "economic" and "soft" policies), and starts using different degrees of their combination in its foreign policy concerning the Levant states, which makes it possible to talk about the emergence and successful application of "smart" power in the regional policy of Ankara's strategy.

**The structure** is determined by purpose and objectives of the research and consists of an introduction, two chapters, each including three paragraphs, a conclusion, and a bibliographic list of literature, which consists of 130 sources, including 46 in foreign languages (English, Turkish), and 7 appendices. Work is 90 pages.

**Summary:** The Republic of Turkey is one of the main regional actors whose interests and foreign policy influence the situation in the Levant subregion. Russia's participation in the attempts to resolve the Syrian crisis and the war on

terror demonstrates the relevance of the analysis of the national interests of the countries involved in the events in the Middle East, including the need to study Turkey's foreign policy. The character of Turkey's relations with its neighbors directs the development of events in the Syrian and Arab-Israeli crises, which are key factors in the formation of a general political entity in the Middle East.

The relatively sudden reorientation of Ankara's foreign policy, due to the coming to power of the Justice and Development Party, allows us talking about the revival of the ideology of "Ottomanism." The situation in which Turkey has found itself after almost half a century of domination of Kemalist sentiments in the highest political quarters demonstrates that the Republic is not recognized either in Europe or in the Middle East, and this is a serious obstacle on the international arena.

With all the characteristics of a regional leader, Turkey is in partial political isolation. In its attempts to overcome it, Turkey seeks to establish relations with the Arab and Muslim worlds, which is well demonstrated by its foreign policy in the Levant.

Turkey is the country with the second largest army in the NATO and one of the EU's main economic partners in energy matters. It occupies an advantageous strategic and geopolitical location, which in many respects dictates national interests and determines the future vector of foreign policy. Therefore, the analysis and study of relations with the Levant countries, which are a zone of important national interests of the Republic of Turkey, will help to identify and anticipate further actions of the state in the Levant, which is one of the most unstable regions. From what actions Ankara will take and how it will develop its cooperation with its neighbors depends, the overall international conjuncture of the Middle East and, in particular, the Levant region.