

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: South Caucasus in the foreign policy of the world's leading and regional actors.

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Relevance of the research issue:

Throughout the entire history, the South Caucasus region was the part of the sphere of influence of several major actors. This state of affairs is invariable in the modern world. The interests of Russia, Turkey and Iran were discernible earlier. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, new extraregional actors, the United States and the EU joined the struggle for the given territory.

It also should be noted that state relies on its national interests while making the course of foreign policy, and by identifying them country sets certain goals and objectives that it seeks to achieve. The current policy of the above-listed actors is directed precisely at the implementation of national and strategic interests.

Such attention to the territory under consideration is determined on the one hand by the availability of Caspian energy resources, on the other hand, by the geopolitical position of the region. The South Caucasus is a natural geographical transit hub and for some actors it serves as a corridor to the countries of Central Asia and the Middle East, and to others as an opportunity to get to Europe.

Thus, the South Caucasus is a very promising direction for regional and extra-regional governments, and therefore, the study of the ways of its development and the alignment of forces in this territory is very relevant today.

The purpose of the work is to identify the national interests of regional and world actors, determined by their foreign policy in the South Caucasus.

Research objectives:

- to characterize the concept of "foreign policy";
- to identify the main mechanisms and instruments of foreign policy's implementation;
- to prove that national interest is the main imperative of the foreign policy of the modern state;
- to reveal strategic interests of the USA and the EU in the South Caucasus;
- to study the foreign policy of Turkey and Iran in the South Caucasus;
- to analyze the national interest of Russia in the South Caucasus.

Scientific novelty is determined by a comprehensive analysis of the interests of regional and world actors in the South Caucasus region. The application of the system approach made it possible to identify the factors that determine the place of the South Caucasian vector in the foreign policy of the USA, EU, Turkey, Iran and Russia. Particular attention was paid to the position of the Russian Federation as a regional and world actor in the South Caucasus, which makes it possible to separate it into a specific category of actors.

Structure: the introduction, the two chapters, each composing three paragraphs, the conclusion and a 169-reference bibliography, forty four of which are in foreign languages (English, Turkish) and the three appendixes. The total volume is 87 pages of typewritten text.

Summary: The South Caucasus is a part of the system of interests of the US, the EU, Turkey, Iran and Russia. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the reasons and backgrounds, according to which each of the above-mentioned states have directed the vector of their foreign policy in this course, are different.

For the Russian Federation, the South Caucasus region is vitally important, which is due to its close geographical proximity. Nevertheless, the South Caucasian republics have conflicting sentiments about Russia in the XXI century. The tendency of recent years has shown that Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia are strengthening relations with other actors represented in the region.

As for the United States, the EU, Turkey and Iran, the South Caucasus is in the sphere of their important interests. Western countries pay attention to such areas as energy, security, trade, investment. The attitude of these countries to all the South Caucasian republics is quite the same, which cannot be said about the relations between Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran with the same countries. The Republic of Turkey gives priority to Azerbaijan, spreading its influence and gaining access to the energy resources of the Caspian Sea. Georgia is further on the priority, which is important for Turkey for the transportation of Caspian energy resources, as well as for entering the region of the Central Asian Turkic-speaking countries. Finally, Armenia, with which the Republic of Turkey needs to establish a dialogue.

The IRI in its turn is linked to the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan by common historical roots and strong modern political relations. At the same time, Iran should pay more attention to Georgia and make attempt to strengthen its positions in this state.

Thus, there is a number of problematic issues, as well as several promising directions for all actors in this region. Hence, it is possible to say with confidence about the further development and maintenance of relations between regional and extra-regional powers with the South Caucasian republics.