

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** Modern Greek-Turkish relations in the context of political processes in the Balkans

**Author:** Karslieva Victoria Georgievna

**Academic Adviser:** Suchkov M.A, Doctor of Political Sciences, assistant professor

**Organization:** School of International Relations, Chair of International Relations, World Economy and International Law, Pyatigorsk State University.

**The relevance of the research issue is:**

- to identify the major factors influencing the nature of Greek-Turkish relations, and to prove that the modern context of the Greek-Turkish relations is defined by four determinants;
- to define and characterize in detail three main scenarios of Greece and Turkey bilateral relations development with a detailed assessment of benefits and prospects for each of the parties in case of their implementation.

**The purpose** of the work is to identify the major factors determining the dynamics of the modern Greek-Turkish relations in the Balkans and to open prospects of their development.

**The research objectives are:**

- to study regional aspects of the international relations: main approaches and methodology of research;
- to examine geostrategic importance of the Balkans for the modern international relations;
- to explore the major determinants of the modern Greek-Turkish relations in the context of the geopolitical processes in the Balkans;
- to investigate prospects of the Greece-Turkey bilateral relations.

**The scientific novelty** of research qualification work is:

- the major factors influencing the nature of Greek-Turkish relations were identified, and the definition of the modern context of the Greek-Turkish relations by four determinants was proved;
- three main scenarios of Greece and Turkey bilateral relations development with a detailed assessment of benefits and prospects for each of the parties in case of their implementation were defined and characterized in detail.

**The structure** of the final qualifying work reflects the logic of the research and subject to the decision of the set tasks. The work consists of introduction, two chapters, which include four paragraphs, conclusion, applications, and bibliographic references. The total volume of the bibliography is comprised of 175 sources, including 70 sources in the foreign languages. The total amount of the work is 95 pages of typewritten text.

**Summary:** The geographical position of the Balkans is caused by the intersection of transcontinental and European communication systems in the region, the coexistence of Islam and Christianity (Orthodoxy and Catholicism). The set of these factors formed a crucial geo-strategic importance of the Balkans;

they acted as a tool, which other countries used in order to achieve their goals. Throughout all history of the Balkans the territory of this unique region always became the arena on which the heavy international, interfaith and interstate conflicts took place. Multidimensional collision of interests of two states with historically developed high political ambitions – Greece and Turkey – became one of them. The Greek-Turkish conflicts always became object of a great interest of the international community, first of all, because relationship of these two states affects the interests of all European Union member states, the Council of Europe and NATO. Multidimensional collision of interests of Greece and Turkey is shown in need to solve the following issues: the Cyprian conflict, "the Aegean dispute", development of energy resources in disputed territories and a migratory problem of Europe.

During this research we have studied regional aspects of the international relations, have analyzed the geostrategic importance of the Balkans for the modern international relations, have investigated the main determinants of the modern Greek-Turkish relations in the context of geopolitical processes in the Balkan region and have studied prospects of the Greece-Turkey bilateral relations.

The research has yielded the following results. Dynamics of the Greek-Turkish relations develops in the conditions of four key factors: the influence of tradition, including religious dogma and ideological imperatives that is especially obviously traced in Turkey policy (a historical factor); maintaining security policies of states, based on border disputes and territorial claims (geopolitical factor); extraction of energy resources to the "disputed shelf" and power-transit policy of Turkey and Greece (energy factor); the migratory processes proceeding in the countries of the European Union (a factor of external migration).

The current dynamics of the Greek-Turkish relations assumes their further development in one of three most probable scenarios – optimistic, pessimistic and "realistic". At the moment there are a number of prerequisites to implement each of these scenarios. The main obstacle for implementation of the optimistic scenario is ethno-territorial conflicts which amplify because of high influence of historical memory. The pessimistic scenario, first of all, restrains by NATO mechanisms. In such light the "realistic" scenario assuming that cooperation level in the majority of spheres in Greece and Turkey will remain at the low level because of the remaining historical and territorial claims is submitted to be the most probable, at the same time the countries will continue to coordinate efforts in significant for the EU and NATO questions (a problem of migrants, power safety, etc.).

In addition, the study found that the foreign policy aspirations of Turkey, which cornerstone the doctrine of the new Turkish President, based on the theory of neo-Ottomanism: Turkey performs the actions directed to fixing of its position as a leader in the region, increasing its economic power, aims to become the key player in questions of safety, both on the Balkans, and in the countries of the Islamic world.

At the same time Greece at this stage faces serious economic difficulties, that determine lack of big resources and political levers for maintaining of foreign

policy in all most important directions, and also leads to weakening of interaction with the partner countries.

Despite historically developed and amplifying complexity of the Greek-Turkish relations the results of our research show that these neighboring countries need to find the new perspective directions for possible cooperation. In this scenario (which can be based on the “realistic” scenario of continuation of the Greece - Turkey relations described by us) is highly likely that these countries will be able to overcome the existing contradictions in the desire to satisfy their interests in the new vectors of development of bilateral relations.