

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: The Kurdish issue in contemporary international relations

Author: Vasiliy Simeonidi

Academic Adviser: V.N. Panin, Doctor of Political Science, Professor.

Organization: Institute of International Relations. Department of International Relations, Political Science and World Economy, Pyatigorsk State University.

Relevance of the research issue. The Desire of the Kurdish people for independence and self-determination has created one of the most pressing and challenging centuries-old issues in international relations, still not receiving a decision. The situation of the Kurds in Iran and Turkey, modern developments in Kurdistan with the attempts of the Kurds to self-determine and of the consequences of the military conflict in Syria, that started the process of autonomy, contribute to the further strengthening of the Kurdish question. It became a factor of tension in the middle East, since the Kurdish movement plays a big role in domestic nature of this region. The attempts of the Kurds to gain national independence. Retaliatory response from Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria, i.e. countries that have divided Kurdistan is not found... Given the current alignment of forces in the international arena, it can be argued that any scenario for the development of the situation will be of crucial importance both for the Kurds and for the world community.

Currently, the Kurdish issue has ceased to be only an intra-regional problem, having acquired an international character. The world powers (having their own interests in this territory) are building their policy exclusively with their consideration, not taking into account the interests of the Kurdish people. Despite such difficulties, the Kurdish national movement is not losing its strength, but, on the contrary, has received momentum and has become an important factor in international relations.

The international community has not managed yet to develop a clear attitude to the Kurdish issue, often preferring to follow the policy of "double standards". And

although these are elaborated by the international community as fair installation in relation to the right of each people to self-determine, at the same time they are opposed to the principles of inviolability of territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of the state. These conflicting matters create a lot of difficulties in the way of solving the Kurdish problem.

The object of the research is the situation of the Kurds and the Kurdish issue in the context of the development of the contemporary international political situation.

The subject of the research is the perspectives on the solution of the Kurdish issue in modern international relationships.

The purpose of the research is to analyze the Kurdish problem as a factor in the dynamics of geopolitical processes in the Middle East.

The following **tasks** are set to achieve this purpose:

- to characterize the geopolitical situation of "Kurdistan";
- analyze the genesis of the Kurdish issue;
- to assess the state of the "Kurdish problem" in the context of the geopolitical processes in the Middle East at the present stage;
- describing the situation of the Kurds in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran;
- analyzing the Kurdish vector in Western politics;
- to analyze the significance of the Kurdish issue for Russia.

The **scientific novelty** consists in the fact that the paper identified the main problems and prospects of the situation of Kurds in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran, encompassing past tensions in Iraq, the referendum on Kurdistan's independence, as well as the lack of consensus among world powers on this issue. Also analyzing the importance of the Kurdish question for Russia in the context of its important role in regional and international security, prioritizing the relationships and factors in their future development.

Structure: the two chapters, containing six paragraphs each, the conclusion and a 133-reference bibliography (51 of which are in foreign languages). The total volume is 59 pages.

Approbation. Basic provisions of the final qualifying work were presented on the international conference "Actual problems of the modern Middle East" (Assyut, Egypt, 2017) and discussed at meetings of student's debating club on the international relations «Globe». The results of the work were also presented at regional interuniversity scientific and practical conference of young scientists, graduate students and students "Young science — 2018" and at the meetings of the students' discussion club on international relations "Globus". The main results of the study were published in the article "Modern Foreign Policy of Russia in the Middle East".

Summary. The Kurdish issue is understood as the summation of Kurdish problems in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran, caused by the absence of a solution to the Kurdish problem in these countries; The possibility of using these problems by world and local players as levers of pressure in interstate and international relations; the opportunity to use the state of the Kurdish movement, which is a factor of interregional and international relations, as a means of exerting political pressure. The Kurdish issue at the present stage acquires an ever wider scale. The Kurds are striving for unification, which exacerbates the tense situation in the Middle East and finds no support in any of the states of the region, except Israel. At the same time, Kurds still remain as an instrument in the struggle for power between regional and global powers.

The general hostility to any form of Kurdish autonomy unites the regimes of Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Iran. The more autonomy Kurds acquire in one part of Kurdistan, the greater is the likelihood of instability among the Kurdish population in other parts of Kurdistan. The creation of a single state by the Kurds is unlikely, as it will entail major geopolitical changes on the world map. They will affect not only the countries in whose territory the Kurds live, but also the entire Middle East. The struggle of Kurds for their rights depends heavily on external factors, in particular, on the positions of the West. The US and many leading European countries have big economic interests in the countries that have divided Kurdistan, and this affects their position on the Kurdish issue. The West does not consider the

Kurdish issue as an integral problem common people, and probably won't consider it in the future.

Russia stands for a peaceful solution of all disputable issues and conflicts and tries to conduct a smooth, balanced policy, in close cooperation with official authorities of interested states and the world community with respect to the Kurdish problem, while reserving the right to humanitarian, cultural and other ties and contacts with Kurds. At the same time, the Russian leadership has to take into account the existing high level of political, trade-economic and other relations with our traditional regional partners: Iran, Turkey and Syria, the persisting prospects for the restoration of the full range of Russian-Iraqi relations.