

SUMMARY

Research topic: Turkey's foreign policy in the context of the Kurdish issue.

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Relevance of the research topic: The Kurdish issue for Turkey has become a cause of instability in the entire Middle East region in recent decades. Our study takes into account the fact, that our analysis aimed to establishing a healthy balance of interests and points of view, cannot be identified without presenting current events in the region, as well as an accurate picture of the nature of the political elites of the Middle East region and the forecast of probable directions of the countries development.

The relevance and importance of the topic are determined by the fact that the Kurdish issue in Turkey's politics is constantly going through various stages: periods of tension to fading. For example, by the end of 1999, the situation had calmed down a bit. South-Eastern Anatolia is an area inhabited by a large number of "Turkish" Kurds, was characterized by a stabilization of tension in the region. We can point out, that this was due to the statements of the Supreme Council of the Kurdistan Workers' Party that the Kurds are abandoning the armed forms of struggle and stop the terrorist attacks on Ankara. On the other hand, the arrest of the leader of the Labour Party of Kurdistan (LPK), A. Ocalan, was controversial, and it caused wide public reaction in the world, which gave hope to the Kurds for the support from the West in the embodiment of their long-standing dream of creating their own state.

All of the above indicates that the experience of Turkey to perform such a policy in the region, when the armed confrontation is motivated by the slogans like "The War for the Creation of an Independent Kurdistan", has been gradually transformed into the political struggle of Turkey with political parties defending the interests of the entire Kurdish people. However, all countries in the region are

looking for solutions of various tasks to ensure the cultural rights of the Kurds based on political consensus, although, of course, it is not easy to find common ground, which deserves the most careful consideration.

The purpose of the study of this work is a comprehensive study of the peculiarities of Turkey's foreign policy in the context of the Kurdish problem.

Objectives of the study:

- to explore the foundations of the formation of modern foreign policy of Turkey;
- to analyze the mechanisms and instruments for the implementation of Turkey's foreign policy;
- to give a description of the key areas of Turkish foreign policy;
- to identify the specifics of the Kurdish issue in Turkey's foreign policy;
- to explore Turkey's interaction with regional and international actors on the Kurdish issue;
- to determine the prospects for the creation of a united Kurdistan and the related context of Turkey's foreign policy.

The scientific novelty of the study is as follows a comprehensive study of Turkey's current foreign policy, taking into account the Kurdish problem that influences the development and adoption of foreign policy decisions by Ankara, which are circular in connection with the permanent development of events in the region. One more important fact should be taken into the consideration and it is the continuing tension between Ankara and Washington over the arrangements for the supply of S-400 anti-ballistic missile systems from Russia to Turkey, as well as the contradictory relations of Kurds from different countries of the region with the United States, the military and political crisis in a number of countries with Kurdish populations (Syria, Iraq, Iran), etc.

Structure: The work consists of an introduction, two chapters, six paragraphs, a conclusion and a bibliographic list of references, including 103 sources, among which 51 sources are in foreign languages (English, Turkish) and four applications. The total amount of work covers 73 pages of typewritten text.

Summary: To sum up all above, we can single out the following main directions of Turkey's foreign policy at the present stage regarding the Kurdish issue:

1) the Turks are forced to monitor scrupulously all the processes associated with the reinforcement of the Kurdish separatist tendencies in Northern Iraq and try to influence them in order to prevent the creation of an influential Kurdish autonomy;

2) Turkish diplomacy has to look for practically all its partners to support the "unified, integral, sovereign Iraqi state", including in exchange for various concessions;

3) The issue of national minorities is one of the most difficult for the Turkish side in the relations with the EU, since European standards (in particular, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 2001) suggest a completely different conceptual approach than Kemalist principles;

4) Kurdish issues are one of the main sources of constant disagreements (Turks are extremely sensitive to how and in what capacity Americans accept representatives of both Turkish and Iraqi Kurds) in relations with the US and it does not bring substantial contribution to the real strategic partnership;

5) The countries where there are Kurdish communities (a number of EU states, Russia and some CIS (Community of Independent States) countries) also present a certain problem for the Turkish foreign policy, as these communities lobby actively their interests.

Speaking about the conceptual bases of the policy of the Turkish government in resolving the Kurdish problem, it is necessary to single out two directions. First, it is gaining legitimacy due to the really demonstrated effectiveness of power: military and economic. The statement of the problem of the southeast of Turkey by the official authorities consisted in the desire to withdraw from its national aspect, but, if possible, pay attention to the economic side, that is, by leveling the region's economic backwardness, which was not always successful. Characteristic was the manifestation of a brutal policy towards Kurdish radicalism, which was based on a

forceful solution of the Kurdish question. Secondly, the country's top political leaders sought to adopt many laws, mostly of a conservative nature, aimed at escalating Kurdish nationalism, whose goal is to strengthen the political regime in the country.