

Summary

Subject of the thesis: Geopolitics of Turkey in the Balkans

Author: Africanov Sergey

Academic Adviser: Parastatov S.V., PhD, Political Science.

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

The relevancy of the subject of the research. The Balkans for many centuries was one of the most tense and confrontational region of the world in political, social and military spheres. In modern conditions there are a number of factors that complicate the political situation in the Balkans. Tension between the countries in the region complicates the process of political and economic development and giving rise to social discontent among the population and promotes the growth of terrorists and extremist threats in the region. Modern backbone problems in the Balkans region are largely influenced by the policies of the Turkey, and the solutions to those problems may not be complete and final without Turkey's constructive engagement in this process. Turkey has its own vision of how to address regional problems and takes an active part in these processes. The relevance of this work is explained by the fact that it is necessary to identify major trends and directions of the development of regional processes in the Balkans under the influence of Turkey's policies. In this context it should be noted that the peace and stability in the Balkans depends on the nature of the Iranian-Arab relations. It should be emphasized that Iran and the Balkans states (especially Greece and Serbia) have always regarded each other as rivals in commercial matters, territorial claims, political and religious issues. Thus, the study of Turkey's foreign policy is a quite relevant theme at the present stage.

The object of the research is geopolitics as a factor in modern international relations.

The subject of research are modern Turkey's geopolitical ambitions in the Balkans.

The purpose of the study is to analyze the current geopolitical ambitions of Turkey in the Balkans.

The following **tasks** are set in relation with the above mentioned purpose of the research:

- to identify geopolitics as a factor in the foreign policy of modern states
- to analyze the place and role of the Balkans in the modern geopolitical processes
- to study Turkey's foreign policy in the Balkans
- to analyze Turkey's interests clash with extra-regional actors in the Balkans.

Scientific novelty of the research consists in the fact that national interests of Turkey in the Balkan region were defined and were revealed that his main geopolitical aspirations are aimed at establishing control over the states like Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo), as well as to influence the muslim small ethnic groups (goranians, tarbeshians and pomakians).

The **provision** submitted for thesis defense:

1. The foreign policy of the Republic of Turkey in the Balkans in recent years is entirely based on the concept known as "neo-Ottomanism". To achieve its objectives within a given Turkey uses two tools concept: soft power, as well as an economic factor. Through educational and religious spheres of the Turkish state has strengthened its influence in countries such as Albania and Bosnia. At the same time, Ankara has a special impact on Bosnia, where religious identity is a factor. In addition, due to the close economic ties with the countries of the region, Turkey has increased the economic dependence of the Balkan states from it, thus consolidating its influence on them.
2. Accession of Bulgaria and Romania, as well as the possible accession of Montenegro and Bosnia into NATO and the European Union have strengthened the role of the West in the region, thus significantly violating the balance of external forces in the Balkans. The pro-Western policy of Sofia, Sarajevo, Podgorica and Bucharest is undoubtedly a positive impact on the geo-strategic position of Turkey in the region, however, opens at the same time, new opportunities for global actors such as Germany, which leads to a clash of its interests with the interests of Turkey.

The structure of work. The work consists of an introduction, two chapters, including two each paragraph, conclusion and bibliography of references. The total volume of work is 75 pages of typewritten text. The main results should be added the fact that geopolitics as the foundation of formation and realization of the state's foreign policy objectives is natural, and therefore irreversible character. At the present stage of development of international relations geopolitics operates mainly in the form of geo-economics, as the economic component of world politics is today one of the highest priorities. Notably, the place of the Balkans in the above processes. Recently, among the main functions of the international Balkan strategic node underlined the importance of economic. The unique central position between the key regions of mining and energy of the main consumers of the Balkans devotes a special place among global geopolitical areas of the world.

Thus, in spite of the functional change, the Balkan region continues to play a fundamental role in the global system of international relations.

As for Turkey's Geopolitical interests in the Balkans, Turkey has much in common with the countries of the Balkan Peninsula, and therefore taking steps to realize their interests. Paragraph 1. 3 states that the main challenge for the Republic of Turkey in the Balkans is to develop a policy that will allow it to become the dominant power in the region through soft power and economic instruments.

As for Turkey and its influence on the region is now, at the present time, about any dominance in Turkey is difficult to speak in the Balkan region, after all this we can conclude that Turkey is trying to actively participate in political and legal processes in the Balkans, first it was under pressure from Western partners, but today Ankara acts more independently since losing attempt to become an EU member, Turkey has started to carry out autonomous from Western policy, despite the alliance and partnership in NATO, as well in the region is gradually switched on and Russia which have high expectations countries such as Greece and Serbia.