

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: De-facto States in Contemporary World Politics (cases of Abkhazia and South Ossetia)

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Relevance of the research issue: De facto states are one of the most contested phenomena in contemporary world politics. Today, there are more than twelve definitions and notions of states like these in different world regions. Very often they become a bone of contention between great global powers while the issue of their recognition is a subject of information wars.

This issue has a special significance for the post-Soviet space where the process of ethnic self-identification has not ended with the end of the Soviet Union. Probably, disintegration of the USSR cannot be considered as ended unless main ethno-territorial conflicts are resolved.

Geopolitics prevails when this issue is examined leaving questions of political identity, state building and internal dynamics in non-recognized states. Besides, there's no common language necessary to study this complex phenomena.

In this regard, analyzing current trends and their peculiarities in cases of Abkhazia and South Ossetia not only have analytical value but are practically-oriented and make the research topical.

The purpose of the work is to outline basic peculiarities of the state building in Abkhazia and South Ossetia as well as criteria of their recognition by third states

Research objectives:

- systematize main approaches to the study of de-facto states;
- outline key criteria for the recognition of de-facto entities in contemporary international relations;
- outline main problems and challenges to the state building in Abkhazia;
- trace the dynamics to state building in South Ossetia and assess prospects of its further recognition.

Scientific novelty:

- it's been proved that contemporary political science has no common language to address the phenomena of de-facto entities however most of them have the following common features: 1) location within the borders of a "maternal state" 2) contested legal status that gives grounds to qualify their sovereignty as problematic 3) declarative character of their statehood and strive to secure their de-facto status by symbolic features 4) non-legitimized status by external institutions (the U.N.).

- problems of state building in Abkhazia and South Ossetia have been conceptualized and prospects of their further recognition have been outlined.

Structure: the two chapters, containing two paragraphs each, the conclusion and a 109-reference bibliography (65 of which are in foreign languages) and the 4 Appendixes. The total volume is 74 pages.

Summary: In modern politics the phenomenon of de facto states cannot be studied exclusively in categories of international law. It has a clear emotional and symbolic dimension and has a lot to do with social and cultural motives. Without taking it into account the problem of de facto states cannot be solved.

Most states when recognizing or not-recognizing de facto entities are guided by the principle of political pragmatism while legal norms are used as a tool to consolidate one's position.

Presently, Republic of Abkhazia has a more developed, comparing to South Ossetia, political system and the Republican elite is oriented toward its further independence. This goal presumes consolidation of Abkhazia's external relations in political, economic and military fields with other states. Meanwhile in South Ossetia there are strong irredentist trends to incorporate into Russian Federation.