SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: Turkey's foreign policy in the Middle East.

Author: Kondratenko Oksana Anatolievna.

Academic Adviser: Panin V. N., Professor, PhD, Political Science

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

Relevance of the research issue is expressed in the fact that the current situation in the Middle East can be characterized as extremely complex, fraught with large-scale political crises and military clashes. In the 21st century, the scale of the threat and danger in the Middle East is international. The analysis of the problem and similar situation in this part of the world is due, first of all, to the presence of unresolved issues. Such trends as the growing confrontation between Sunnis and Shiites, and the spread of radical Islamism in the region - are complementary and mutually reinforcing. In Syria and Iraq there is a war, part of their territories are captured by terrorists. The situation in Yemen remains tense since the beginning of the Arab Spring in 2011, and in 2014, the Husits, who overthrew the government and President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, took the military-political arena of Yemen. The country is divided, there is no real power in it, attempts at negotiations between the Husit and Saudis do not yet give a chance for peace in Yemen, which in the future can split into the North and South as it was from 1967 to 1990.

In Libya, after the death of former leader Muammar Gaddafi, chaos reigns. Beginning in 2014, there are two parliaments in the country, one of which is a variety of groups, including Islamists, and the other is formed by the former Libyan general Khalifa Haftar, but they do not control the entire territory of the country, parts of which are in the hands of various armed groups, including "Islamic state".

In the south-east of Turkey there are Kurdish insurrections. During the wars in Syria and Yemen, Shiite Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia find out the relationship, helping the warring parties. Israel continues to be the scene of many terrorist attacks. The significant role played by Turkey in international relations in the Middle East is due to its relatively high economic and military-political potential: it surpasses Iran and Saudi Arabia, whose armed forces have the greatest combat capability in terms of military strength. The favorable geostrategic position of Turkey, which controls the Straits (the Bosporus and the Dardanelles), also allows it to claim the place of a leader in the geopolitics of the Middle East.

Over the past two decades, Turkey's foreign policy in the Middle East has become very controversial. Changes in the international and domestic environment have led to the emergence of competing ideas on the elements of Turkish foreign policy in this region. Thus, the questions about the interests of Turkey in this region, to what extent it should engage in the Middle East and what threats emanate from the region become more relevant.

The object of research is Turkey's foreign policy strategy.
The subjects of research is the Middle East vector of Turkey's foreign policy strategy at the present stage.

The purpose is to study the problems and perspectives of Turkey's current Middle East strategy.

Research objectives:
- to study the foreign policy strategy of the state in the modern world;
- to describe the foundations and instruments for implementing Turkey's foreign policy strategy;
- to analyze the place and significance of the Middle East in the Turkish foreign policy strategy;
- to identify the problems and perspectives of Turkey's foreign policy strategy in the Middle East.

Scientific novelty:
The conceptual bases for the formation of the foreign policy strategy of the state are examined and it is shown that when it is compiled it is necessary to take into account the determinants of the global, state and sub-state levels for more effective use of available resources in the course of realizing the goals of the state, the significance of which may change;

It is shown that neo-Ottomanism, supplemented by Islamization, becoming the basis of modern domestic and foreign policy, will inevitably conflict with the interests of other regional and global players, and the perspectives for its implementation are limited by internal problems that will require time and a favorable international situation. The fact that Turkey has different foreign policy scenarios and that most of them are directly affected by internal problems makes the future of the country and its political elites uncertain.

Structure: two chapters, four paragraphs, the conclusion, bibliography list of used literature from 162 sources, including 64 sources in English and Turkish, and four applications. The total volume is 87 pages.

Summary: Since its foundation in 1923, after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey has become a key player in different regions. Turkey, being a member and the second largest military force in NATO, is a key ally in safeguarding US interests in the Middle East. As the former head of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Turkey is also a long-standing candidate for membership in the European Union. Moreover, in the last decade, Turkey has become an important regional actor with great military and diplomatic resources.

The Middle East entered a period of protracted turbulence. But it is characterized not only by such dangerous manifestations as civil wars, the criminalization of Arab societies, the activation of all kinds of radical Islamist groups, the growth of terrorism and cross-border crime. The geographic position of the region are changing rapidly, and the Middle East is entering a phase of a new geopolitical reconstruction - the disintegration of the territorial integrity of individual states (Iraq, Libya, Syria), the emergence of new ethnic (Kurd) enclaves or religious-territorial entities (the self-proclaimed "Islamic state"). Along with the ongoing conflicts, shaky and fraught with destabilization, the situation remains in Lebanon and Jordan, new potentially dangerous centers of Israel's clashes with the
Palestinians, Lebanon, Syria (due to the Golan Heights) are maturing, and the confrontation of the Kurds and Turkey is getting tougher. Turkey's foreign policy in the medium term will be determined by internal political fears and considerations. This fact will lead to more limited regional goals. For example, in the early stages of the Syrian crisis, Turkey's main goal was to overthrow the regime of Bashar Assad.

The Syrian crisis also brought to Turkey more than 2.5 million refugees. The recent Turkish support for the Syrian opposition, including civil and armed groups, as well as the policy of open borders, designed to support the rebels fighting against the Assad regime, allowed radical networks to take root in Turkey. The number of terrorist attacks has increased in connection with the actualization of the Kurdish issue in Turkey, aggravated by the tensions with regard to the new Syrian Kurdish territories located across the border. Turkey is increasingly feeling the pressure of the civil war in Syria on its borders. Nevertheless, Turkey's foreign policy is now experiencing what can be called the Syrian syndrome, making it cautious. This thinking can be traced both at the level of society and at the level of the political elite.

Undoubtedly, Ankara will not give up its neo-Ottoman ambitions, however, it is likely that the force factor will be involved in their incarnation, in particular against the Kurds in Syria and Iraq under the pretext of protecting the territorial integrity of the country and combating terrorism. Recent events in Syria have demonstrated that Turkey's regional influence, which has increased markedly after the "Arab Spring," is gradually declining. In addition, Erdogan's political miscalculations led to the deterioration of Turkey's relations with a number of leading world actors.