

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** Contemporary Bilateral Relations between the U.S. and the Republic of Armenia.

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**Relevance of the research issue:** Armenia is the first South Caucasus state with which the U.S. established diplomatic relations on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1992. While the relations have been vibrant, limited energy resources and territorial isolation have been obstacles to a full-fledged Armenian-American relations.

However there are several windows of opportunity for Washington to increase its presence in the South Caucasus: imperatives of geostrategic character, powerful Armenian lobby and close relations between Moscow and Yerevan.

While Armenia preserves the most pro-Russian position of all South Caucasus states, the U.S. cannot construct its own geopolitical infrastructure in the region – without Armenia it will be totally incomplete. Therefore the U.S focuses much attention on humanitarian programs (by the end of 2000 their number is as high as twenty) – from cultural exchanges and economics to development of civil society institutions and military cooperation.

Although Armenia is a member of the OCST its troops participate in NATO-led campaigns in Afghanistan and, earlier, in Iraq and Kosovo. Being a member of the Eurasian Union the Republic is a member of the “Eastern Partnership Program”. Therefore, both institutionally and pragmatically, Yerevan participates not only in Russia-led economico-political projects but is also integrating into

Euro-Atlantic structures with the U.S. support. The analysis of the bilateral relations, assessing of the prospects and risks makes this research topical.

**The purpose** of the work is to outline key problems and areas of U.S. – Armenian cooperation since the establishment of the bilateral relations.

**Research objectives:**

- outline main research areas of the Caucasus region in the U.S.;
- prove that lobbies are an important factor in the American decision-making towards Armenia;
- expose key tools and mechanisms of American foreign policy towards Armenia;
- outline major aspects of bilateral cooperation in the military-political areas and assess the prospects for their development and the level of threat to Russia.

**Scientific novelty:**

- prime peculiarities of Armenian lobbies activity in the U.S. have been exposed and it was proved that they focus on three major issues: U.S. financial aid; the status of Nagorno Karabakh, recognition of the Armenian genocide by the American government;

- the current foreign policy initiatives of the U.S. towards Armenia have been conceptualized and it was proved that “humanitarian engagement” is provided through several tools of the soft power. The bilateral politico-military cooperation focuses on five key directions: reforming the defense sector, providing the security, developing scientific novelties, developing civil defense, information work with Armenian citizens.

**Structure:** the two chapters, containing two paragraphs each, the conclusion and a 113-reference bibliography (50 of which are in foreign languages) and the 4 Appendixes. The total volume is 74 pages.

**Summary:** Currently, Armenian lobbies are considered a more significant factor in American decision-making towards the South Caucasus, than Azeri-Turkish lobbies. This has to do with a long-standing term in American political life, a more representative group in the Congress and a well-developed network of lobbies and own think tanks.

Taking into account the Armenian membership in the OCST and bilateral military agreements with Russia, in a long-term Armenia's engagement in a closer political-military cooperation with the U.S. either directly or through Euro-Atlantic structures (like Georgia or Azerbaijan) is highly unlikely. In this context the prime influence onto Armenia is projected by the U.S. through "soft power" tools, including the grant-based aid, exchanges program, support for the opposition, etc. All these initiatives are oriented to shape an elite loyal to Western values and torn away from the Russian cultural influence.