

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: Contemporary geopolitical processes in the Black Sea region.

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Relevance of the research issue is determined by the importance of the Black Sea region and its transit routes which connect the Western countries with the rich sources of hydrocarbons of Central Asia and Transcaucasia, as evidenced by the gas pipeline "Turkish stream" running along the bottom of the Black Sea. The region possesses rich deposits of shale gas and gas hydrates, which allows us to assume that in the near future the role of the Black Sea region in the global economy and geopolitics will increase significantly.

The modern geopolitical architecture of the Black Sea region is characterized by a large accumulation of conflict potential, restraining the establishment of good neighborly and mutually beneficial relations between the states of the region. The economic competitiveness of the countries of the region is low. They differ from each other not only by their political interests, but also by the level of economic, social, cultural development, and religion. Moreover, they are constant competition for transit privileges.

In addition, NATO, US and EU demonstrate a strong military and political interest of in this region on the whole as well as in its energy geopolitics and restructuring of the main transport communications. Western oil companies are showing particular attention to the region with a view of developing the hydrocarbon-rich fields and transportation routes of the Caspian Sea.

The above-mentioned factors indicate that the Black Sea region is extremely vulnerable in the sphere of ensuring its security. In addition, the serious transformation processes that have taken place in the region are destabilizing the situation in the security sphere throughout the world.

Significant changes in the geopolitical configuration of the Black Sea region occurred after the end of the cold war. At present, the most important players in the region are the Russian Federation and Turkey, each trying to become the key player. To date, however, each of the two has had a special geopolitical significance and a zone of its strategic interests. As a result, there are various geopolitical contradictions between the countries, but despite this only their joint well-coordinated policy can ensure a stable situation in the region.

The purpose of the work is to identify the main features of modern geopolitical processes in the Black Sea region on the example of Russian-Turkish relations.

Research objectives:

- to explore the significance of the geopolitical aspect in contemporary international relations;
- to analyze the current geopolitical challenges and ways to overcome them;

- to reveal the geopolitical features of the Black Sea region;
- to consider the Black Sea region as a place of intersection of geopolitical interests of Russia and Turkey.

Scientific novelty of the work lies in the critical analysis of the approaches of domestic and foreign experts to the geopolitical identity of the Black Sea region. The identification of common interests of Russia and Turkey in the region allows, despite the general negative background of the bilateral relations in the recent years, to build a mutually beneficial cooperation.

Structure: two chapters, containing four paragraphs, a conclusion, a 122-reference bibliography (eighteen of which are in English language) and eight Appendixes. The total volume is 73 pages.

Summary: In the modern world, the study of geopolitical processes is one of the main components that are essential for the states to conduct a successful foreign policy. The nature of these processes depends directly on the type of the modern political system. At the same time, there is still no accurate understanding of the modern geopolitical world order or the principles and values on which it is based.

In connection with the geopolitical changes taking place at the present stage and the formation of a new world architecture, the West, and in particular Europe, has lost its centuries-old domination. There was a need not only in the inter-civilizational dialogue of the Western and Eastern European traditions, but also in the search for a new model of building relations with the Muslim world. As far as we know, it is the Russian Federation and Turkey that have centuries of experience in the interaction of the Orthodox and Muslim worlds.

The Black Sea region is beginning to gain significant importance in the conditions of extreme polarization of international relations. Since this region is located at the crossroads of continents and civilizations, it is a bridge between Europe and Asia. It borders on the oil-rich Caspian Sea, which is rich in raw materials and strategic transport corridors, control over which allows to determine the further type of geostrategic situation in Eurasia for many centuries. All this leads to the clash of views of external geopolitical entities that are constantly occurring here.

In order to satisfy their geostrategic interests and considering the possibility of gaining control over Eurasian communications and transport resources, the interests of the world's leading players (Russia, USA, Turkey, NATO and EU) clash in this region.

It is the joint activities of the Russian Federation and Turkey that despite the presence of a large number of contradictions can ensure the security of the region and contribute to the favorable outcome of various regional conflicts, provided that the two countries push their own interests to the background and put the security of the entire Black Sea region as a priority. However, this already implies a fundamentally new level of mutual trust. To what extent Russia and Turkey will be able to submit their ambitions to the idea of the organization of a new security system remains an open question.