SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: Contemporary Foreign Policy of the United Arab Emirates in the Middle East

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Relevance of the research issue:

In recent years economically well-developed monarchies of the Persian Gulf, loyal to the U.S., have been playing a more dynamic role in the regional processes. One of the most vibrant states in this category is the United Arab Emirates which fueled the so called "Arab Spring" and aided several coups in a number of neighboring countries.

The accumulated financial resources help the UAE use its aid programs and economic initiatives as their main foreign policy tools at the present stage. Geostrategic significance of the country is also quite important since it’s located at the intersection of key transit oil and gas flows, trade and commerce routes of Asia, Europe and Africa.

The complex of the factors makes the UAE an influential member of the regional community and gives it an opportunity and enables it to dictate its terms in certain areas of politics and economics including in some UN bodies. Although the main rival of the UAE in the region is Iran, the country has serious disagreements with its regional allies – Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Understanding of the decision-making process of the UAE, main directions of its policy and its role over regional process in the Middle East make this research topical.
The purpose of the work is to outline key peculiarities of the making of the UAE foreign policy as well as define main directions of its foreign policy in the Middle East and the tools of implementation.

Research objectives:

- outline key peculiarities of the making of the UAE foreign policy;

- define the conceptual basis of the country’s foreign policy in the Middle East;

- systematize basic tools of the UAE’s diplomacy in the Middle East;

- prove that the UAE has directly influenced the “Arab Spring” protests and assess the prospects of the country’s foreign policy in the region in a short term.

Scientific novelty:

- key trends in allocating the financial aid to third countries have been outlined and it was proved that the practice is oriented towards shaping a loyal political elite in the countries-recipients of the financial aid;

- the current foreign policy of the UAE is based on the six conceptual principles and aimed to achieve five strategic goals;

- based on the statistics bilateral military and economic relations between the UAE on the one hand and the U.S., Saudi Arabia and France on the other have been systematized.

Structure: the two chapters, containing two paragraphs each, the conclusion and a 111-reference bibliography (57 of which are in foreign languages) and the 4 Appendixes. The total volume is 74 pages.

Summary: Currently, the UAE positions itself as a loyal member of the Arab family but strives for more leadership. Country’s economic potential makes it
a powerful regional force but the practice of a double-standard foreign policy and its assertive nature disguised as humanitarian aid scare off many partners.

The key consolidating component in relations between the UAE and its neighbors is the Iranian threat and issues of “Islamic solidarity”. However the “Arab spring” phenomenon drove a wedge between the Gulf monarchies which is especially true in case if Syria and Egypt. In the first case there’s a conflict of interests between different militant groups opposing Assad who are being sponsored by different monarchies. It leads to a clash of spheres of influence. In the second case, the UAE prevents the activity of the Muslim Brotherhood, as it sees the group as a main threat to its national security and deems any of their sponsor-states (i.e. Qatar) as hostile to the UAE. This exemplifies that the union of the Gulf monarchies is not so strong and they have little capability and will to counter big regional challenges collectively.