

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: Modern Armenian foreign policy in the South Caucasus.

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Relevance of the research issue: After the collapse of the USSR on the territory of its former republics began the process of nation-building and development of the main foreign policy priorities based on transformation of the international relations system. The present stage for the post-Soviet states is characterized by a high degree of conflict due to fundamental changes in the vectors of their domestic and foreign policies.

Taking into account changes in the geopolitical configuration of the world, as well as energy, transport and communications capacity in the South Caucasus, the region became the object of aspirations of a number of leading states. Thus, the newly formed states for objective reasons are influenced by a number of regional and extra-regional actors.

Armenia is the only country in the South Caucasus, which after the collapse of the Soviet Union vigorously strengthen relations with Russia. However, at the present stage a number of leading countries such as USA, Russia, Iran and the EU are aimed to spread their influence in Armenia because it responds their national interests.

In this context, the choice of the Armenian leadership between complementary policy and a tough defense of its national interests will be the key. Moreover, the problem of studying the origins of contemporary trends Armenia's foreign policy also becomes relevant due to the fact that many intertwined factors take place here because of objective reasons.

The theme of this study is also vital due to close and mutually beneficial relations between Russia and Armenia, as in light of recent events Armenia has become the only geopolitical reference point for Russia in the South Caucasus. Thus, the intensification of Russian-Armenian relations is the key to long-term presence of Russia in the South Caucasus and the ability to influence the dynamics of political processes in the region.

The purpose of the work is analysis of the current foreign policy of Armenia in the South Caucasus region.

Research objectives:

- to explore the basics of foreign policy of the modern state;
- to analyze the main foreign policy implementation tools of the modern state;
- to identify Armenia's national interests in the South Caucasus;
- to determine the main directions of Armenia's foreign policy in the South Caucasus.

Scientific novelty: a comprehensive study of the origins of foreign policy of Armenia was conducted, as well as a deep analysis of the current Armenia's foreign policy centered around the idea of complementarity, indicating the priority directions of modernization. Moreover, a comprehensive analysis of the national interests of regional and extra-regional actors in the South Caucasus was also done, including proposals with the view to improve the efficiency of Armenia's foreign policy.

Structure: an introduction, the two chapters, containing four paragraphs, the conclusion and a 125-reference bibliography (thirty eight of which are in foreign languages) and the six Appendixes. The total volume is 77 pages.

Summary: Nowadays the state of the status quo in the region is beneficial for Armenia as it provides time to develop the democratic potential of the country, its human and intellectual resources, which in the future may become one of the most important levers of influence. Besides, a strengthening of relations with

Russia and Iran is becoming actualized for Armenia, as these states are the only partners that provide progressive development of Armenia.

Armenia's foreign policy will not undergo significant changes as long as the geopolitical configuration of the South Caucasus is not radically changed. The abovementioned situation may be potentially caused by military actions against Iran. Under such circumstances, there is a strong possibility that the vector of Armenia's foreign policy will change to a pro-Western.