

PYATIGORSK STATE UNIVERSITY

The School of International Relations

The Department of International Relations, Political Science and World Economy.

**Maxim Melnikov**

SUMMARY of the final qualifying paper RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY ON THE POST-SOVIET SPACE

The supervisor of studies: Denis A. Mirgorod, Ph.D. in Politics

The paper is devoted to the study of the specific characteristics of the Russian foreign policy in the post-Soviet space, revealing the main problems of bilateral relationships. The paper consists of two chapters.

**Topicality of the research.** After the collapse of the Soviet Union Russia, being the successor of the USSR, has faced a big amount of problems. These problems are considered typical for the countries, which are on their way of building the new governmental structure. One of the most important targets was to understand what is to be considered as national interests, and what the foreign policy of the state should be. The geopolitical position of Russia has changed to the worse. The sphere of Russian influence has decreased dramatically.

Today the region of post-soviet space is the subject of interest not for Russia only. European Union, the United States of America, China, Turkey and Iran are truly interested in empowering their influence in the region. They increase their level of interaction with former soviet republics. This process may have negative consequences for their attitude towards Russia. Ukraine is one of the most drastic examples of nowadays. Complex studies are needed for better understanding of the situation on the ground.

The aggressive policy of the non-regional actors in the region is rising the topicality of the research. That's why we should pay peculiar attention to the studies, concerning Russian foreign policy and it's development on the post-Soviet space.

**The Object** of the research includes the analysis of governmental foreign policy and it's peculiarities.

**The Subject** of the research includes the analysis of Russian Foreign Policy at the level of interstate cooperation with the former Soviet Union countries.

**Research Objectives:**

- To consider the essence, the contents and mechanisms of realization of modern foreign policy of the state;
- To define the role of national interests in states foreign policy;
- To characterize the tools and mechanisms of realization of the foreign policy;
- To analyze the contents of the military policy doctrine of Russia;
- To reveal the main features of Russian foreign policy on the post-Soviet space;
- To make a forecast of the further succession of events

**The Scientific Novelty** of the research deals with the process of realization of the national interests by Russian Federation on the post-Soviet area:

- it was proved that Russian foreign policy, is very much dependent on the realities of the modern international relations. The legacy of the Soviet Union also plays pretty important role;

- it was defined, that post-Soviet space plays important role in the system of the Russian priorities in sphere of international relations;

- it was found out, that, despite the difficulties in relations with particular countries, post-Soviet space will always be at the highest level of priority for Russia.

**The methodological and theoretical basis** of the research represents a set of general scientific research methods, including institutional, historical, comparative approaches as a part of the complex analysis of the Russian's national interests realization process on the territory of the former Soviet Union in general and in each of the states of the region in particular.

**Practical value of the research.** Results of research can be applied in teaching subject matters "Geopolitics", "The modern international relations", "Commonwealth of Independent States".

**The Structure** of this research is defined by logic and consists of the following: two heads including two paragraphs for each one, a conclusion, and a bibliographic list of the literature used from 125 sources including 35 sources in foreign languages (English and Spanish). The total amount of pages in this research constitutes 136 typewritten pages.

In the first chapter the conceptual approaches to the definition of foreign policy are analyzed. The authors analyze the essence, the contents, the mechanisms of foreign policy realization. The authors pay attention to the correlation between the foreign police of the state and its public policy.

In the second chapter of the research the main stages and features of Russian foreign policy are described. Moreover, all the post-Soviet countries were divided on specific groups.

In conclusion, we have found out that Russia is actively trying to cooperate with practically all of the states in post-Soviet region. However, the level of cooperation differs heavily.