

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: LATIN-AMERICAN FACTOR IN THE FOREIGN POLICY OF SPAIN

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Relevance of the research issue: recently sharp activation of extra regional communications has become characteristic feature of the Latin American region that significantly changes habitual alignment of forces in the region. Besides the USA, other extra regional powers, such as Spain, China, India and Russia also apply for a role of a regional leader.

The Latin American factor is one of the prior directions of foreign policy of Spain which is the ex-mother country for a number of the countries of Latin America, however being the European state, Spain pursues also policy on further integration within the EU. Nevertheless, the West European integration is combined with development and deepening of traditional ties with the countries of Latin America.

Now the role of the countries of Latin America on the international scene steadily increases. The region covers practically all territory of the South and Central America, occupies exclusively favorable location, has a big source of raw materials, is the largest producer of agricultural production. The countries of the region actively interact with each other and on the international scene, being rather stable in the political and military plan of the region.

In many respects therefore, the Latin American factor in foreign policy of Spain is important both for the countries of the region, and for Spain. Spain quite often acts as the intermediary party at discussion of different political and economic problems with countries of Western Europe. Being the member of NATO, Spain has a certain leverage on processes which happen in the block and has a direct bearing on the countries of Latin America.

Keynote of the international efforts of Spain is increasing role of the country in the solution of the intra European, and also regional and world issues in compliance with increase in its economic potential. Spain achieves realization of this task through increase of the status in various European and international structures, in the last the special place is taken by the countries of Latin America relations with which have deep historical and cultural roots. It's pertinent to note participation of Spain in peacekeeping, advances of the representation in various international organizations, expansion of political and economic cooperation in those regions of the world which enter a zone of its priority attention. One of such regions, certainly, is Latin America.

The above-stated argument claims theoretical and practical importance of the real work that in many respects causes a choice of this subject.

The purpose of the work is in study of Latin American factor in the foreign policy of Spain.

Research objectives:

- outline concept and essence of foreign policy of the modern states;
- analyzing features in foreign policy communications of ex-mother countries and ex-colonies;
- trace competitive interaction of Spain and other states in Latin America;
- prove the main spheres of interaction of Spain with the countries of Latin America.

Scientific novelty: It is proved that ex-colonies pursue the policy of dismantling the former colonial empires, proceeding from the economic, political and ideological dominants which were developed in the colonial past; modern foreign policy of Spain concerning the state of Latin America is realized with wide range of political tools which includes economic, political, military and technical mechanisms.

Structure: the two chapters, containing four paragraphs, the conclusion and a 109-reference bibliography (forty-five of which are in English and Spanish) and four Appendixes. The total volume is 85 pages.

Summary: Latin America is a zone of national interests and the competition of the USA and a number of the European, African and Asian countries. The main competitor of the USA in the region is Spain. However, the states of Latin America show activation of the extra regional communications. The main fears of the USA and Spain are connected with the growth of economic influence of China in the region which, possibly in the future will be able to transform into political. Spain, the USA and a number of western countries are concerned about strengthening Russian influence in the region, first of all, military.

Nevertheless, Spain, competing for influence with such states as the Russian Federation, China, India, possesses a number of advantages, it is in many respects proved by unity of language, religion, historical past which unite the former mother country and ex-colonies. Foreign policy contacts of Spain with Latin America are important components of the international relations. Spain, is aimed at strengthening joint dialogue with the countries of the region, restoring trade and economic relations and opposing the growing influence of the USA.

Potential of these relations is based on political, economic, military and technical cooperation within Ibero-American community, and also in the form of bilateral agreements between the partner countries. Thus, foreign policy communications of Spain with the Latin American countries is based on a historical, cultural basis which complement economic interests of Spain and the countries of Latin America and has quite steady character.