

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** West African vector of modern foreign policy of France

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**Relevance of the research issue:** The dynamics of the development of international relations, the definition of the alignment of regional forces in contemporary world politics requires analysis and assessment of the geopolitical, economic and civilizational situation. For many centuries, France was one of the dominant countries in international politics, and its influence extends to various regions of the world, including the former colonial possessions in West Africa.

The French Republic retains a strong political and economic influence in its African ex-colonies and provides them with not only economic assistance, but also troops for peacekeeping missions, for example in West African countries. In modern conditions, it is impossible not to take into account the geostrategic importance of the states of West Africa, on the territory of which an enormous amount of natural resources are located. France uses a variety of foreign policy tools to maintain its beneficial configuration of the West African subsystem of international relations and to fight other non-regional actors. One of the most pressing problems faced by France in West Africa at the present stage is the rapid growth of Islamic extremism and radicalism.

Thus, the study of France's foreign policy in the West African region is especially relevant in the light of the ongoing transformation of the configuration of this regional subsystem, which is due to the emergence of new extra-regional actors. Understanding the mechanisms for developing a French strategy for the states of West Africa is impossible without taking into account a number of domestic political factors and comprehending the doctrinal guidelines of France, the identification and conceptualization of which actualizes the research topic.

**The task** of the study is the modern foreign policy of France in the region of West Africa.

**The subject** of the study is the specificity of France's current foreign policy in the West African region.

**The purpose** of this study is to identify current trends in France's foreign policy in the West African region and the prospects for its development.

**Research objectives:**

- to study the basic approaches to the analysis of foreign policy of modern states;
- to reveal the role of national interests in the foreign policy of modern states;
- to analyze the main mechanisms and instruments for implementing the foreign policy of modern states;

- to analyze the main stages of the evolution of the West African vector of French foreign policy;
- to explore the national interests of France in the West African region;
- to identify the main directions of France's foreign policy towards the states of West Africa.

**The structure of the** thesis is determined by the purpose, tasks and internal logic of the problem under study and consists of an introduction, two chapters comprising three paragraphs each, conclusions and a bibliographic list of used literature, including 167 sources, of which English is 59, French is 30, and 5 are annexes. The total amount of work – 110 pages of typewritten text.

**Summary:** The process of globalization has had a significant impact on the changing geopolitical structure of the world, the transformation of socio-political systems. An increase in the number of actors outside sovereignty, the emergence of terrorist organizations, transnational networks, the lack of an effective system of checks and balances, and the intensification of competition between states affect the effectiveness of building a foreign policy course of the state. The main goal of the former metropolitan countries is economic domination in their ex-colonies, they do not restrict their own activities purely economic sphere.

The old methods of influence that the ex-metropolitan countries applied to their former colonies have now become part of the "hard" and "soft" force tools: the speech, in particular, is about establishing political and military control, as well as religious, educational and cultural penetration. The role of the arbitrator in resolving internal conflicts and the military bases of France in West Africa make her a strategic presence palpable in this zone. In order to achieve national interests with regard to the states of West Africa at the present stage, France uses the policy of France Africa, the essence of which is to maintain political control and military presence, as well as a significant increase in the scale of financial and economic impact due to a change in the internal political situation in France, on the one hand, and the geopolitical situation in the West African region, on the other.

Nevertheless, given the intensification of other extra-regional actors (China and the United States), the policy of "France Africa" is beginning to lose its relevance, which dictates the need to search for new approaches to the implementation by France of the West African vector of its own foreign policy.