

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: Religion as a factor of influence on foreign policy (on the example of the countries of the Persian gulf)

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Relevance of the research issue: Religion has always been a very important thing for mankind. It helped to interpret various events and to explain facts which peoples could not explain rationally. Religion was a major factor during decision's relating in the internal and external issues and events.

In recent times, the religious factor is actualizing in both Western and Eastern societies, often determining the dynamics of political processes. Obviously, the Islamic world is one of the principal actors in world politics. In today's globalized world, rapidly increase migration flows and main destinations of migrants are the countries of the West and Russia. The transformation of state policy by the reason of migration factors, carrying the religious aspect, leads on the one hand to increasing conflict potential in these societies and on the other hand, it can consolidate, unite peoples. In some cases there is a total politicization of religion that provokes a huge number of conflicts – social, political, military. Recently some of the Persian Gulf States play a significant role in the management of religious groups, using them as a weapon to conduct their own policy. Identification of integration mechanisms of the religious factor in the process of relating political decisions in the countries of the Persian Gulf is determines the relevance of the present work.

The purpose of the work to identify the power of religious factor in foreign policy and identify its resurgent strength in the face of Islam(Sunni and Shiite)

Research objectives:

- to identify the main mechanisms of the religion influence on politics;
- to reveal the role of Islam in contemporary world politics;
- to research a confessional specificity in the policy of « Sunni » and « Shia » States;
- to prove that ISIS is a significant factor in the transformation of political processes in the middle East.

Scientific novelty:

- specifically characterize the key « Sunni factors » that have an influence on the policies of the Gulf States and persuade that they are, on the one hand, may constitute the tools of «soft power» and on the other hand – to serve as the ideological core of «hard»;
- it is proved that the ISIL transform political processes in the middle East region in two main areas: 1) acts as the anti-globalization forces which prompts a return to the «archaic regressive», 2)it is looks like a «syndicate of dissatisfied », which reunite the representatives of different political and religious views.

Structure: the two chapters, containing two paragraphs each, the conclusion and a 90-reference bibliography (44 of which are in foreign languages) and the 3 Appendixes. The total volume is 65 pages.

Summary: Currently we can speak about the existence of two channels of of Sunni Islam influence on the policy of the several States of the Persian Gulf. The first is «ideological», which reduces to the promotion of the Islamic religion and culture. This may be reflected in the creation of charitable funds, Islamic banks, cultural centers and NGOs. From this point, Islam in the State's policy is a tool of « soft power». Second –« fundamentalist » - is the forced imposition of religious dogma as the state-forming and socio-regulatory paradigm. Such forms can be

implemented through the establishment and supporting of terrorist organizations, as well as the destabilization of societies of other States through the introduction of extremist views and practices.

Positioning itself as the leader of the Shia world, Iran is focused on using the Shia Diaspora in Arab countries as a channel of promoting their national interests. This practice is implemented in different countries through four strategies of influence: (a) through political parties (Hezbollah); b) senior elite (Syria); C) population (Bahrain); g) religious minority (Yemen).