

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: The Role of Lobbies in the Making of American Foreign Policy

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Relevance of the research issue: Over the course of recent years the US have been a key non-regional actor in the Middle East. American foreign policy sets the tone for a number of regional processes and is a serious factor in defining the geopolitics of the region. However in recent years American policies have proven to be erroneous on several tracks – some are in conflict with the very interests of the United States.

Various lobby groups play an important role in the process of decision-making. One of the most active lobbyists in the US are those representing interests of Gulf monarchies. Some of the decisions adopted by the American government in the wake of the so called “Arab spring” have been possible due to the activity of these groups. The trend towards escalation of instability in the region will mean an even greater involvement of the lobby groups into the decision-making process in Washington. Therefore, the need for an adequate understanding of the “chemistry” of their work defines the relevance of the research paper.

The purpose of the work is to outline key peculiarities, concrete tools and channels of lobby activities of the Gulf monarchies in the US, define the degree to which they influence the decision-making process in the country.

Research objectives:

- outline conceptual basis of lobbyism as a decision-making factor;
- discern institutional basis of lobbyism in the US;
- systematize main directions and basic tools of Gulf monarchies’ lobbyists in the US;
- prove that these lobby groups have a direct influence on some major decisions of American government in the adoption of its Middle East policy.

Scientific novelty:

- key parameters of contemporary American lobbyism have been discerned. It was also proved that lobby of different states frequently take advantage of them to reach their own goals that aren’t necessarily in agreement with the very national interests of the United States;

- basic tools and technologies of “implanting” Gulf monarchies own agenda into the decision-process of the United States have been outlined with the mechanism of its practical implementation described in detail.

Structure: the two chapters, containing two paragraphs each, the conclusion and a 133-reference bibliography (69 of which are in foreign languages) and 5 Appendixes. The total volume is 80 pages.

Summary: Currently, American political process has created most comfortable conditions for the work of various lobbyist. настоящее время в США сложились наиболее благоприятные условия развития лоббизма. Among them – numerous flaws in the federal and state legislation, specificity of the election, and the practice of receiving “sponsor funds” by decision-making institutions. The factor of lobbies in American domestic politics makes the US dependent on a narrow circle of interest-groups and personalities, depriving American foreign policy of a strategic profoundness.