

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** Contemporary Foreign Policy of Israel in the South Caucasus.

**Author:** Avanesyan Artem

**Academic Adviser:** Suchkov M.A., Assistant Professor, PhD, Political Science

**Organization:** School of International Relations, Chair of International Relations, World Economy and International Law, Pyatigorsk State Linguistic University.

### **Relevance of the research issue:**

The turbulence of the contemporary Middle East as well as the bellicose rhetoric from Iran and the ongoing war in Syria make the Israeli surrounding even more dangerous. This forces Israel to look for new partners in those regions where they historically had no national interests. In late 2000s, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs established the Department of the Caucasus and Central Asia which send a message of interest to the regional powers.

Although Israel has long-standing relations with Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Abkhazia its presence in the region is relatively new and is based on interests in four strategic areas – political, military, economic and cultural.

Imperatives of energy security boost Israeli support for the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, while financial interests trigger Israeli supply of arms and drones to the region – primarily to Georgia and Azerbaijan. But first and foremost, the region is a new zone for the strategy of “encirclement of Iran” – through forming new alliances with the republics of the South Caucasus.

Assessing the current dynamics and potential risks of Israeli engagement into the region for Russian policies makes this research topical.

**The purpose** of the work is to outline key peculiarities of the making of the UAE foreign policy as well as define main directions of its foreign policy in the Middle East and the tools of implementation.

**Research objectives:**

- outline major principles of Israeli foreign policy making;
- name key features of Israeli foreign policy in the post-Soviet space and the tools of its implementation;
- open up the specifics of Israeli-Georgian relations and outline priorities of their bilateral cooperation;
- assess the state and prospects of contemporary Azeri-Israeli relations.

**Scientific novelty:**

- it's been proved that the foreign policy of Israel is motivated by the "imperatives of survival in the antagonistic environment" and is closely connected with the values rooted in historical traditions, where support for diasporas in the post-Soviet space is one of the main features;

- it's been proved that contemporary policy of Israel in the South Caucasus stems from the concept of "peripheral diplomacy", is based on the historical tradition of the late 1950-s and is oriented towards new foreign policy partners outside the Middle East;

- principle bilateral military-political and economic initiatives between Israel and the republics of the South Caucasus have been systematized.

**Structure:** the two chapters, containing two paragraphs each, the conclusion and a 116-reference bibliography (48 of which are in foreign languages) and the 3 Appendixes. The total volume is 73 pages.

**Summary:** Since Israel regards Iran as one of the main threats to its national security the region of the South Caucasus is interesting for the Jewish state in three

dimensions: as a new zone for “encircling Iran” (long-term); energy supply (mid-term); selling of high-tech arms and drones (short-term);

Over a relatively short period of presence in the region there were two milestones of Israeli policy: before the 2008 – when the priority partner was Georgia and relations with this country were based on the political-military pragmatism; After 2008 – when Azerbaijan came under the spotlight of Israeli policy but where there are its own limitations for a robust partnership (role of Turkey, religious factor, Palestinian-Azeri relations).

Although in a short term Israeli engagement in the region doesn't pose a direct threat to Russian national security, the war in South Ossetia in 2008 sent a clear message that militarization of the South Caucasus is extremely dangerous for the security of the region.