

Subject of the thesis: Actors in internationalized armed conflicts (the case of Syrian conflict).

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Relevance of the research issue. The acceleration of the globalization process caused substantial transformations in the international relations system. The changes in both number and structure of actors, shift from bipolarity along with increasing role of regional powers, increase of political and economic interdependence, cultural globalization and rise of mass media and mass communications complicate the international relations system, hinder the possibilities for making prognosis.

The challenges of globalization become especially apparent during modern armed conflicts. Increased permeability of state borders, informative vulnerability and intertwined political and economic interests of states make intrastate conflicts prone to intervention. Great and regional powers intervene both directly — by the means of armed intervention or diplomacy — and indirectly. The crucial role in international conflicts of last decades is played by the non-state actors, especially by transnational terrorist or separatist organizations.

The Syrian conflict attracts an especial interest due to its complicated actor structure, various means of internationalization. Still unresolved after several years, Syrian conflict earnestly challenges the international community. The conflicting and interweaving interests of actors of different nature is among the main problems, which are rising while analyzing Syrian conflict.

The purpose of the work is identification of the features of various actors as well as of their behavior in modern internationalized armed conflicts.

Research objectives:

- analyze the usage of the term “actor” in modern political science as well as different international actor typologies;
- formulate typical features of modern armed conflicts;
- analyze preconditions and causes of Syrian conflict;
- analyze the hierarchy and relationships of actors involved in Syrian conflict, develop possible scenarios of the conflict.

Scientific novelty. An attempt to redesign the international actor typology was made in the research along with the analysis of involvement levels of various actors in internationalized conflicts. The analysis of Syrian conflict was made which revealed its participants and their relations, allowed to make the most probable scenario and recommendations on conflict settlement.

Structure: the two chapters, containing four paragraphs, the conclusion and a 124-reference bibliography (94 of which are in foreign languages). The total volume is 82 pages.

Summary. Modern day conflicts have acquired a number of typical features. First, the interstate wars are substituted by small-scale local conflicts, primarily by internationalized internal conflicts. Secondly, modern day conflicts have potential for increasing complexity via both inclusion of new actors and territorial extension. Thirdly, ethnic and religious hatred, nationalism and separatism along with interests of terrorist and criminal organization are among key conflict-shaping factors. In such conditions the role of sovereignty-seeking transnational actors is increased.

The Syrian crisis, which started as a civil resistance, transformed in a large scaled internationalized conflict with three-level structure. First level is comprised of government forces and the Opposition. The second one represents the USA-Russian Federation struggle over the region, while the third level is formed by involvement of Islamist groups, supported by Arabic monarchies, pursuing their regional interests.