

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: Contemporary Foreign Policy of Germany in relation to Russia.

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Relevance of the research issue: The Federal Republic of Germany is the fourth economy in the world and the first among the European Union therefore it plays an extremely important role in the economic and political processes on the European and global scale. Both regional and extra-regional actors have always paid special attention to German-Russian relations, considering that modus operandi between two countries has often been the determining factor in the European security architecture. Experience has shown that both Germany and Russia gain from close bilateral cooperation. The growing economy of Germany as the core of the European Union needs an uninterrupted supply of energy resources, at the same time the economy of Russia cannot be on a strong track without German high technologies.

To sum it up, on the one hand, Berlin is upon the look for the new strategy in relation to the Russian Federation; on the other hand, Germany manipulates its NATO membership in order to gain more political and military weight on the world stage.

However, the Ukrainian crisis has changed radically German-Russian relations and European security architecture as well. As a result of the deterioration of relations between Russia and the West Germany has the opportunity to determine the response on behalf of the entire EU as well as play a pivotal role in the formation of a new European security system. At the same time, Germany has striving for strengthening its leading position in the European Union balancing between two political giants - Russia and the United States. Thus, a proper understanding of German current foreign policy with respect to Russia, identifying the sources of this policy, its resources and the key priorities in terms of economic and military-political aspects make this research topical.

The purpose of the work is to expose features of the formation and implementation of the foreign policy of Germany in relation to Russia

Research objectives:

- examine the doctrinal foundations of Germany's foreign policy;
- expose features of the formation of German foreign policy in relation to the Russian Federation;

- expose key tools and mechanisms of American foreign policy towards Armenia;
- trace the dynamics of Russian-German relations at the present stage;
- evaluate the prospects of development of bilateral relations on the example of three different scenarios.

Scientific novelty:

- the main features of the activities of think tanks and pro-Russian lobby structures in Germany have been identified and it was proved that, although above-referred groups are an important factor in the development of Germany's foreign policy with the respect to Russia, they are now not able to influence sufficiently the relations between Germany and Russia in terms of political relations crisis;
- three scenarios of the development of German-Russian relations, as well as the requisite conditions to their implementation have been formulated.

Structure: the introduction, the two chapters, containing two paragraphs each, the conclusion and a 106-reference bibliography (40 of which are in foreign languages) and the 4 Appendixes. The total volume is 91 pages.

Summary: At present, German-Russian relations are in crisis as a result of Russia's political line on the Ukrainian issue. As a result of several packages of sanctions against Russia, bilateral economic relations have suffered extensive damage, while political relations attained a minimum over the last 70 years. However one should not ignore the fact that, there are still groups interested in the normalization of the dialogue.

Further development of German-Russian relations should also be considered in the context of changes in the situation in the East of Ukraine.

The most favorable scenario assumes the settlement of the Ukrainian crisis, mutual lifting the sanctions and the gradual normalization of relations, which involves the development of a new cooperation strategy.

The second scenario generally describes the current situation, which is characterized by the deadlock situation caused by the attempt to put the conflict in Ukraine into institutional frames through the Minsk agreement, which are regularly violated by both parties to the conflict.

The third scenario is the most pessimistic, it implies an escalation of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, the gradual deterioration of the political dialogue and the reduction of the intensity of the interaction.

Russia needs the EU for the effective interaction on security issues on the European continent. At the same time, the EU led by Germany is unlikely to be able to cope with the current problems without the participation of Russia, so the parties will have to work out the appropriate «modus vivendi» in order to create a new architecture of European security and implement its own economic and political interests as well.

