

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: Modern foreign policy of France in the region of West Africa

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Relevance of the research issue: The collapse of the colonial empires and the proclamation of the independence of African countries didn't mean the end of the era of exploitation by the former colonial powers and by other economically developed world powers. Classic colonialism was based on military coercion and implied the introduction of colonial territories in the political system of the mother-countries, has given place to neo-colonialism.

The African continent has become the arena of confrontation more acute in between major world powers, such as the U.S. and France. In the era of post-bipolar world strategic importance of West Africa increases. As the region which has an large quantity of natural resources, West Africa has a special place in the foreign policy interests of the major powers of the present and former colonial powers. The bilateral relationship problems of France with the countries of West Africa are the most complex.

The study of France's foreign policy in the West African region is particularly relevant in light of the ongoing transformation of the balance of forces in this region due to the emergence of new non-regional actors. Understanding the mechanisms of development of French strategy for West African States is impossible without taking into account a number of of internal political factors in France.

The purpose of the work is to analyze modern trends in the foreign policy of France in the region of West Africa.

Research objectives:

- inquire into the concept and essence of the foreign policy of the modern state;
- analyze the basic mechanisms of implementation of the foreign policy of modern states;
- identify the main priorities and directions of the foreign policy of France in respect of the States of West Africa;
- define the national interests of France in the region of West Africa.

Scientific novelty:

It is found that for the achievement of national interests in the region of West Africa France uses a policy of "France Afrique" is to establish political control, increasing military presence and expanding financial and economic cooperation.

Structure: the two chapters, containing four paragraphs, the conclusion and a 100-reference bibliography (sixty two of which are in foreign languages) and the three Appendixes. The total volume is 61 pages.

Summary: The process of globalization influences on the geopolitical structure of the world, the transformation of social and political systems. Increasing the number of non-state actors, the emergence of terrorist organizations, transnational networks, the absence of an effective system of "checks and balances", the intensification of competition between states influence the effectiveness of building a foreign policy of the state.

The foreign policy of France in the region of West Africa remains one of the main aspects of its foreign policy. The legacy of the colonial era in modern France is expressed in a system of neo-colonialism, which was established in France's relations with former African possessions (France-Afrique), and which is based on a compromise ("soft power"). Ruling with the support of France, African leaders pander to the preservation of French influence on the economy, providing a lot of the French monopoly profits. The role of arbiter in the resolution of internal conflicts and France's military bases in West Africa make its strategic presence

significant in this area. Although there is some evolution in France's relations with former African possessions, due to competition between China and the United States, the French presence remains dominant.