

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: China's Foreign Policy in the South Caucasus

Author: Khorbaladze Eka

Academic Adviser: Professor Panin V. N., Doctor of Political Science

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

Relevance of the research issue is determined by the role of the Caucasus as one of the most important bridgeheads on a geopolitical scale, for which various states and various political forces are fighting. Among the rival powers, China takes an important place, whose activities appear in different strategically important regions of the world, and the region of the South Caucasus isn't an exception. It is quite obvious that the Caucasus is also an object of close attention for the People's Republic of China (PRC).

In comparison with other states that have specific objectives for participation in Caucasian geopolitics, China has a fairly small historical experience in geopolitical contact with the states of the Caucasus. However, PRC intends to change the situation in the near future and strives to give a new impetus to relations with the South Caucasus states, which is directly promoted by the geographic location of the countries of the region.

Analysts agree that the significance of the South Caucasus for geopolitical battles is determined not only by the interrelationship of politics and the availability of hydrocarbon raw materials in the bowels of states, but rather by a clash of opposing geopolitical interests of the Russian Federation, which is the legal successor of the USSR and has its own national interests in the region and the United States, which declared Caucasus-Caspian region as the zone of their national interests.

The South Caucasus is the Great Limitroph, formed by the peripheries of all civilizations of the Old World passing each other, and exactly here will the most important military-strategic and geo-economic scenarios of the beginning of the 21st century be played.

The object of the research is China's foreign policy in the South Caucasus region.

The subject of the research - the strategic goals, tasks and tools for implementing China's foreign policy in the South Caucasus region.

The purpose of the work is to study the priority areas of China's foreign policy and their impact on relations with the states of the South Caucasus.

Research objectives:

- study the essential characteristics of the specifics of the formation of China's foreign policy in the South Caucasus.

- consider the factors shaping China's foreign policy with the states of the South Caucasus.
- identify the priority areas of China's foreign policy with the states of the South Caucasus region at present stage of the international relations.

Scientific novelty consists in a comprehensive review of Chinese policy in the South Caucasus. Despite the numerous studies of various aspects of China's foreign and domestic policy, works on analyzing China's foreign policy in the South Caucasus region are extremely inadequate. That is why we chose this issue for further research.

Structure: introduction, two chapters including six paragraphs, conclusion, a bibliographic list consisting of 150 sources, including 48 sources in foreign languages (English, Chinese and Georgian). The total amount of work includes 81 pages of typewritten text.

Summary: At the present stage, the South Caucasus region is far from the most important in the priority areas of the development of China's foreign policy. There is no doubt that China will try to strengthen its position in the region. The main thing is the establishment and deepening of cooperation in the economic sphere, in which China feels most confident.

Without doubt China's successes in international relations overwhelmingly represent the outcome of a sufficient economic breakthrough that would not be so impressive, if China's foreign policy is not so active. Cleverly acting in modern realities, the PRC diplomacy has made a big effort to raise the state economically and to transform the country into a sufficiently influential, highly developed state that rightfully occupies one of the leading places in the multipolar world.

At the present time, in addition to China, the interests of such powers as the United States, Russian Federation, Turkey and Iran overlap in the South Caucasus. China will have to work hard to establish itself in the region.

The main goal of China's foreign policy is to help to create a renewed, multipolar system of international relations, one of the key positions of which would belong to the PRC. China seeks such a position on the world stage, in which it couldn't be isolated, wouldn't be an object of pressure, but would rightfully count on the recognition of its interests by other participants in international relations.

Rational implementation of its national interests will allow China to pursue a positive and inclusive policy in the entire South Caucasus, which will positively affect the foreign and economic life of the state. Relations based on mutually beneficial conditions are the goal of China's foreign policy, which seeks to increase its presence in the states of the South Caucasus, at this stage mainly from the economic point of view, but also to maintain its relations with the above-mentioned global players in this region. Time will show the effectiveness and rationality of the Chinese strategy in the movement to world leadership. However, today the Chinese side is clearly positioning the strengthening by investing world

infrastructure, which is the main advantage of the PRC. The weak point of the leadership strategy is the lack of a political component. Since 2015, the PRC has been trying to change the current situation, but all the initiatives of the political elite are reduced to statements that "China will play a big role in the UN" and "act as an intermediary in regional conflicts."

In the foreseeable future, from the three countries of the region, Azerbaijan, the republic rich with raw materials, as well as adjacent to the Caspian shelf, which naturally can't leave China, the republic which stands in need of natural resources, indifferent, will remain the main partner of the PRC. Relations between the two states are already developed today. However, the growth prospects are fairly obvious.

With Georgia, China will also expand relations, mainly in the economic and agricultural spheres. Already, China is the fourth largest trading partner of Georgia. It can be assumed that, within the framework of various projects aimed at supplying Chinese goods to Europe, Beijing will try to take an advantage of the favorable geostrategic position of the country and use it as one of the transport corridors. That is why the major Chinese investments come in the transport sphere, without refusing to Georgia to invest in energy projects.

The Chinese-Armenian relations also come to a new level. The number of Chinese investments in the country are growing, the participation of the Chinese side in various energy projects, in the field of information technology, agriculture, and in the military sphere, are proving a tendency for deepening bilateral relations.