

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: The Intelligence Community in the Making of Contemporary American Foreign Policy

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Relevance of the research issue: In the post-Cold War era, one of the most acute problems of U.S.-Russia relations has been exposed: lack on the part of the leadership of both nations of adequate understanding of the decision-making process nuances in Russia and in the United States.

Traditionally the role of domestic factors is overlooked as well as the role of intelligence community in the process is either exaggerated or downgraded. At the same time, it's not always possible to correctly assess the current state of American intelligence community and the channels it influences foreign policy decision-makers.

Meanwhile, this understanding would, on the one hand, minimize potential mistakes in relations between Moscow and Washington, on the other – stipulate for an overall better context for the Russian foreign policy.

Therefore, the research relevance of the present study is defined by the need for an objective and adequate understanding of mechanisms of American decision-making and the role of intelligence community in this process.

The purpose of the work is to outline the role of the Intelligence Community in the decision-making process of the U.S. as well as discern key peculiarities of its operation in the country's foreign policy.

Research objectives:

- outline the role of the intelligence community in the making of a foreign policy of the modern state;
- systematize basic tools of American intelligence community and research their nature;
- define the specifics of American intelligence community at the current stage and trace its main problems;
- assess the prospects for future development of American intelligence community in the context of its relations with the Congress and Presidential Administration.

Scientific novelty:

- key trends in functioning of American intelligence community have been outlined. It was also proved that since 9/11, its very philosophy acquired a more assertive character with the focus on militarized means of implementing various initiatives using modern technologies (information, drone strikes, etc.);
- main factors influencing the interaction process between the intelligence community with Presidential Administrations have been characterized;
- the mechanism of the intelligence and information "feed" of the Congress has been conceptualized.

Structure: the two chapters, containing two paragraphs each, the conclusion and a 123-reference bibliography (79 of which are in foreign languages) and the 4 Appendixes. The total volume is 89 pages.

Summary: Engagement of the intelligence community (IC) into political discussions can lower the quality of their analytical product: the closer intelligence

officers to the political elite the more politicized their assessments are, the less objective their forecast is. In the last decade in the U.S. intelligence information has been “filtered” through one’s political bias which leads to serious strategic miscalculations in American foreign policy (“war on terror” after 9/11, invasion into Iraq, support for Arab uprisings, color revolutions in the post-Soviet space, etc.

The specificity of American political process is in the number of institutions contesting one another in the national security area. The uniqueness of American political culture allows for certain institutional and functional privileges thanks to which American intelligence community provides information not only to the executive branch (Administration) but also to the legislative (Congress). However some materials from the intelligence community enable the Congress to criticize the government and the other way round: the IC can be used by the executive power as an ally in its political struggle with the Congress.