

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** The Catalan Question in Spain's Foreign Policy

**Author:** Ivanova Yana

**Academic Adviser:** Solovyeva E., Professor, PhD, Political Science

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

**Topicality of the research issue:** Spain is one of the leading states of Europe. His foreign policy and the existence of traditional strong ties with his former colonies attached great importance to the study of foreign policy of this country.

In addition, the relevance of the research topic is determined by the need for a comprehensive analysis of the foundations of Spain's current foreign policy with the definition and characterization of its key areas that encompass the whole world. In addition, Spain is a participant in numerous international structures and organizations, which makes it a full participant in the current world political process.

At the same time, Spain has certain pain points that make Madrid modify its foreign policy in order to minimize the attendant risks and threats. To the same problems, you can, for example, include a difficult economic situation, uncertainty with Gibraltar, as well as the Catalan crisis.

The latter is a longstanding problem that affects both the domestic policy of the country and its foreign policy. The last crisis with the status of Catalonia broke out in 2017, when the population of autonomy in a referendum voted for independence from Spain. The rapidity of the decisions taken by Barcelona forced Madrid to take tough and decisive measures, which included dispersal of demonstrations, as well as active consultations with its partners in the EU, who were skeptical about Catalonia's ability to quickly integrate into a single Europe.

Thus, the Catalan factor in Spain's foreign policy is relevant for the study and identification of the features of the current foreign policy course of this state.

**The purpose** of the study is a comprehensive study of the features of Spain's foreign policy in the context of the problem of the Catalan crisis..

**Research objectives:**

- to study the principles of formation and mechanisms for implementing Spain's foreign policy;
- to identify the main directions of Spain's foreign policy;
- to analyze the genesis and development of the Catalan question;
- to give a description of the problem of Catalonia in the foreign policy of Spain.

**Scientific novelty:**

The scientific novelty of the study consists in a comprehensive study of Spain's current foreign policy, taking into account the problem of Catalonia, which influences the formulation and adoption by Madrid of foreign policy decisions,

including on topical issues of the international agenda, including, for example, the situation with Kosovo and the Crimea.

**Structure:** The work consists of an introduction, two chapters, four paragraphs, a conclusion and a bibliographic list of used literature, including 123 sources, including 71 in foreign languages (English, Spanish), as well as three annexes. The total amount of work is 71 pages of typewritten text.

**Summary:** One of the factors of the newest foreign policy of Spain will be the Catalan crisis, which went into its development for a new phase, when the real prerequisites for separating the Autonomy from Spain after the 2017 referendum appeared. The growing tension between Catalan nationalism and the Spanish state is like a clash between an irresistible force and a stationary object. The oncoming collapse was temporarily prevented by the decision of the Catalan President K. Putschdemon to suspend recognition of independence after the referendum of Catalonia on October 1, 2017, in which the majority voted to break away from Spain (the Spanish government declared the referendum illegal).

It is difficult to predict what will come of the current dispute. Given the political inflexibility of the Spanish government and the preference of many enterprises based in Catalonia to remain part of Spain, the Catalan government may not be able to realize its commitment to the creation of an independent national state. At the same time, however, Madrid's heavy response to the referendum led to the Spanish state's loss of legitimacy among many, if not most, Catalans. The fracture inside and between the Catalan and Spanish societies has expanded. The crisis of 2017 is the last in a series of confrontations between Spain and Catalonia, stretching for no less than 300 years. He has a parallel in the intermittent, and sometimes violent conflict between Spain and the separatist nationalists from the Basque region, to which the Spanish state also banned the holding of a referendum on independence in 2008. The main trigger of a new wave of separatist sentiments in Catalonia mainly, we believe, lies in the economic sphere. The Spanish financial and economic crisis of 2007-2015 exacerbated the relationship between Catalonia and the central government in Madrid.

In addition to adjusting the domestic policy, Spain should also strengthen its work in the foreign policy arena. The Catalan crisis, in our view, has brought to Spain's foreign policy quite certain requirements, which to some extent limit its possibilities for foreign policy maneuver. Thus, we see that the events in Catalonia have an impact on the formation of Spain's foreign policy, forcing it to depart from certain principles declared by its main allies in the EU, and also complicating

relations with Russia. At the same time, the reverse is also observed when Madrid finds support from the EU in the question of the impossibility of the painless exit of Catalonia and the composition of Spain for autonomy itself. Based on this, it can be concluded that the problem with the status of Catalonia will have a significant impact on Spain's foreign policy up to the solution of this problem.