

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: Contemporary Foreign Policy Trends in the Middle East.

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Relevance of the research issue: Middle East is in the focus of modern history due to frequent regime changes, emergence of proto-state formations, ensuing international interventions, smoldering territorial disputes. With the global dependence on oil-and-gas resources, the significance of the region in question is impossible to underestimate.

The “national interest” category has an important cornerstone status in the framework of international relations, while many researchers claim it to be the only term that is actually appropriate to the unstable situation in the region.

Owing to its high conflictogenic capacity, the Middle East turned into an ordnance yard where undeclared national interests are tested by the new forms of information, economic, hybrid and proxy warfare, which could be transferred to any other place on the globe. Thorough scrutiny of foreign policy tendencies in the region must be helpful for major international actors in fostering their own foreign course and their place in the international hierarchy.

Owing to the above stated relevance of the forming processes in the Middle East, their causes and consequences, there is a pressing need to secure global economic and political order through further development of analytical prognosis of the events in the region.

The purpose of the work is to analyze modern foreign policy trends in the Middle East in the context of national interests of the regional and global actors.

Research objectives:

- examine foreign policy as a scientific category;
- determine the concept of “national interest”;
- outline the keyactors in the Middle Eastand the mechanisms of their policy towards each other;
- shapethe unique features of the contemporary geopolitical pattern of the region;
- analyze core interests and mechanisms of their realization by the main domestic actors;
- make projection on the role of the Russian Federation in the region for the near and medium term.

Scientific novelty:

- The current high conflictogenic capacity of the Middle East is interpreted as a transition to fostering a system of checks and balances (power centers and spheres of influence) in which local predominant forces take active part;
- Scenarios are modeled for the sequence of interactions between the Russian Federation and actors in the region for the near and medium term.

Structure: two chapters, containing three paragraphs each, conclusion and a 152-reference bibliography (44of which are in foreign languages – Arabic and English) and the 6 Appendixes. Thetotalvolumeis101pages.

Summary:

The Middle East region in the modern structure of international relations is apprehended as a litmus paper for confrontations along the axis “West-East”. Trans regional actors compete for the position of privileged trade partners and try to compound the zones of loyal regimes into regional security system. The maintenance of the political map of the region depends on their ability to cooperate in the face of such challenges as terrorism, arms control, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons technologies.

Deformation of the interstate relations system provokes local states to fight for the leading role in the region. The break-up of the traditional triad of key states (Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia) evokes other players – Turkey, Qatar and Iran – turn the situation to their own advantage. With their ideological hostility, Saudi Arabia and Iran set in motion all methods of confrontation available apart from direct military aggression.

At the same time, Russia starts to play the critical role in the ongoing processes in the Middle East. Moscow is confident about the need of strengthening governmental institutions to tackle the roots of many problems.

Under these circumstances, the operation of Russian Aerospace Forces in Syria facilitated the internal balance changes and opened up the opportunities to find breakthrough approaches within the framework of political settlement promotion.