

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** Soft power of the French Republic at the present stage

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**Relevance of the research issue:** Soft power becomes an inalienable attribute of the foreign policy of modern states, ensuring their national security, contributing to the formation of a positive image of the state on the international arena.

Nowadays, France is stepping up its soft power policy. In 2017 France became the world leader in soft power, rising from fifth place, thus outstripping the United States, Britain, Germany and Canada. The soft power of France is based on its cultural and linguistic policy. Learning French and in French is an important vector of French influence and at the same time a way to combat the spread of radicalism.

At the present stage there is a growing influence of La Francophonie as an international organization in the world political arena. Initially formed as a cultural and linguistic community, today the International Organization of La Francophonie has evolved into a political and economic community that unites not only the states that were part of the French colonial empire but also European and Asian countries that have a weak relationship to the French language and culture. The French experience of securing state interests with the help of soft power resources, its policy of using the francophone community as a friendly political, economic, cultural and linguistic space deserves attention. In view of the insufficient knowledge of this issue, the relevance of the study lies in the need for analysis of the specific use of soft power tools by France, as well as in developing recommendations on the possible use of this experience by Russia, including the development of Russophone organizations.

**The purpose** of the work is in outlining specific features of France's use of soft power in its foreign policy.

**Research objectives:**

- outline the essence of modern foreign policy;
- study ways of implementation of soft power tools in the foreign policy of states;
- reveal the main resources and tools of France's soft power;
- determine the importance of La Francophonie in shaping France's foreign policy influence.

**Scientific novelty:** It is proved that the effective interaction of state and non-state, the active use of digital diplomacy by the state institutions and its leaders, the proclamation of adherence to such values as freedom, democracy, equal cooperation, dialogue of cultures are the main factors of France's successful achievement of the foreign policy objectives by soft power tools.

**Structure:** the two chapters, containing two paragraphs each, the conclusion and a 105-reference bibliography (59 of which are in foreign languages) and the seven Appendixes. The total volume is 73 pages.

**Summary:** France's rise from fifth to first place in the Soft Power 30 index is in part attributed to the influence of the President Macron but is also based on the vast French diplomatic network, which is unrivalled in terms of membership of multilateral and international institutions, cultural richness, gastronomy, literature and philosophy, architecture, art, high fashion, luxury industry, along with advanced modern technologies and achievements in science.

Nowadays, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of France is stepping up influence-building diplomacy. Like some other developed countries, as principles of a soft power policy France has taken up the struggle for human rights throughout the world, an approach that affirms values such as freedom, democracy, equality, while considering the traditions of different cultures. Nevertheless, to counteract political pressure and cultural expansion on the part of other states, preserve national identity, form a positive image of the state on the international arena, France needs to use soft power tools in pursuing foreign policy more effectively. In this regard, it is advisable to increase the audiovisual presence in the world, to participate more actively in the development and use of new information and technologies, to preserve the French cultural heritage and promote further advancement, and the spread of the French language, to form in the former colonies and countries partners the political elite and specialists in different fields, oriented in their activities to France, and also to focus on more effective activities in promoting foreign policy interests within the framework of the united community of French-speaking countries.