

SUMMARY

Subject of the thesis: Islamic factor in Russian foreign policy.

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Relevance of the research issue: In the last decade, the rise of influence of religious factor has become a steady trend of modern world politics. A large number of modern conflicts include religious aspects. According to S. Huntington, the majority of conflicts will be caused by the clash of civilizations. Meanwhile, it is well-known that religion lies at the foundation of any civilization. Today the world politics is focused mainly on the Islamic factor. Islam is the youngest and the most politically active world religion. In Islamic countries religion is closely linked with politics. Many of these countries have strategic importance in world politics, so that the Islam is appeared to be linked with the most acute problems of world politics. The Islamic countries resist to the western scenario of globalization, imposition of the market economy, seek to become an independent power center. Such a stance is close to Russian foreign policy. Besides that, in Russia Islam is the second religion in the number of followers, so that the problems of the Islamic world have an huge impact on the Russian national security. The Arab revolutions overthrew the secular regimes and increased the influence of Islamist regimes that formed the new governments. It set the new objectives in the Russian foreign policy, which needs to establish new relations with new Islamist governments. All that makes it necessary to study the Islamic factor in Russian foreign policy.

The purpose of the work is analyze the Islamic factor in Russian foreign policy.

Research objectives:

- outline the character of relations between religion and politics in international relations;

- consider the influence of religious factor on the foreign policy of state;
- determine how the religious factor can be used to achieve foreign policy goals;
- analyze the Russian relations with the Islamic world;
- analyze the Russian foreign policy in the Greater Middle East region as the key region in the Islamic world and world politics.

Summary: Religion has a huge potential for mobilization of people that can be used for the consolidation of society as well as for its division. The most important thing about religion is ideology. The crisis of secular ideologies makes the religious one more appealing for the masses of people. Political religions propose its projects of society reorganization that compete with the secular projects. Religion is taking a more active social stance and intervenes in the other traditionally secular spheres of social life. The state foreign policy is also subject to this trend, so many contemporary politicians, taught to think in the framework of rational model actor, call for the reconsideration of religious factor in international relations. The Islamic factor is getting more important on the international arena. Islam lies at the heart of the Islamic countries and has a huge impact on all spheres of society, including foreign policy. As for Russia, it is important to strengthen its relations with the Islamic world, improve its image and enhance the mutual understanding in order to unite the efforts with Islamic world in struggle with terrorism.