**2018. Т.1. №1**

**MILITARY AND POLITICAL COOPERATION IN CIS. POLICY OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION SUMMARIZED IN THE ANNIVERSARY MINSK-SUMMIT**

*Abstract.* The relevance of the chosen topic seems reasonable for a number of objective reasons. First, the political agenda of modern international relations is characterized by a high level of tension comparable to some periods of the Cold War. The policy of NATO and the leaders of this military-political alliance lead by the United States causes increasing concern both for the leadership of Russia and for the leadership of a number of CIScountries which are also members of the CSTO. In this circumstance their military and political cooperation inevitably should be researched. Secondly, since the beginning of the zero years of the current century, serious structural and conceptual changes took place within the CSTO itself, which, in turn, was a consequence of the transformation of the foreign policy course of the member countries of this organization. Finally, thirdly, it should be noted that the CSTO, like any other international organization, inevitably faces the same challenges that almost all the actors of the international community do today. These are, above all, international terrorism and illegal migration. And the search for an adequate response to these challenges is also one of the priorities of the CSTO. Working on this article, the author set himself the task of studying the processes of military-political cooperation in the CIS through the prism of the CSTO. This task also implied the analysis of the CSTO itself and its evolution from declarative organization with limited goals and powers to a solid regional military and political structure that corresponds to all the standards of a modern military association. The ultimate goal of the study is to identify the role of the CSTO in ensuring regional security in the space of the former USSR in contemporary time.

*Key words*: CSTO, CIS, military and political cooperation, challenges, the struggle against terrorism, joint military exercises.

**DETERMINATING FACTORS OF PERMANENT INSTABILITY IN UKRAINE**

Abstract. In November 21, 2017, it was three years since the mass protests began in the center of Kiev. It began in response to the suspension of President Viktor Yanukovych signing an agreement on the association between Ukraine and the European Union. This action was supported by means of the population unrest in other cities of Ukraine. These events, which eventually took the form of armed confrontation, accompanied by the seizure of administrative buildings, eventually led to a coup d'état on 21 February 2014 and the seizure of power in the country by radical nationalists. Since then, the Ukrainian crisis has firmly taken the leading positions among the problems, which solution has a direct impact on European security and the whole system of international relations. The crisis clearly revealed the imperfection of the security system operating in Europe, based on NATO's dominant role and the peripheral nature of the Russian factor. For Ukraine, the events of late 2013 - early 2014. became a turning point, the former foreign policy concept collapsed, and a new alternative was established. The country, throughout the post-Soviet period, balancing between Russia and the West, dramatically changed the vector of its foreign policy and took a clear Euro-Atlantic course. That caused the geopolitical decomposition of Ukraine, and plunged it into the abyss of civil war. The present article is devoted to the analysis of the factors that have provoked the crisis in Ukraine. The author considers the historical, economic, ethno-confessional, geopolitical factors that determined the permanent instability in the Ukrainian state, implementing the methods of systemic analysis, historical- and political analytical methods

*Keywords*: Ukraine, crisis, disunity, instability.

**PREHISTORY OF RUSSIA’S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO IN THE NEW ERA (1991-2012). (PART ONE)**

*Abstract.* The article is devoted to the problem of relationship between Russian Federation and NATO in the XXI century. The relevance of the question is indisputable considering the fact that the global stability in the world depends on both positive or negative tendencies in this relationship. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union the new quality of cooperation between NATO and Russia seemed to be outworked. But still there is a huge list of factors and unsolved problems between these two key actors of the international relations which cannot grant permanent security and stability in the world. The present-day crisis that forms the political and international agenda today grows on the soil of this complex of issues which were either ignored or underestimated in the 1990-s – first decade of the 2000-s and now we just yield what we've got. The article doesn't have the objection to analyze the ongoing crisis in Ukraine or disagreements between Russia and the USA on Syria e t.c. The authors wanted to analyze prehistorical backgrounds of the relationship between NATO and Russia and, maybe, reveal some crucial points responsible for turning this relationship on the road of new confrontation. That's why our research chronologically includes two decades past the collapse of the USSR (1991-2012). The authors consider that it was the crucial time when the fundamental basis of the potential cooperation between Russia and NATO was formed.

Working on the material the authors applied to the methodology of political science and international relations. The methods of political analysis, structural analysis and invent-analysis (studying the official documents) were used in the article.

For the better understanding of the issue and in order to prevent the readers from the danger of being “over-informed” the authors divided the material into two parts. The first part devoted to the historical analysis of the Cold War is presented in this number (№1) and the second one is going to be continued in the second (№2) one.

*Keywords:* Russia, NATO, cooperation, missiles, disarmament, expansion, defense.

**RUSSIA'S INTERACTION WITH THE USA AND NATO IN COMBATING DRUG THREAT IN AFGHANISTAN**

*Abstract*. The article discusses the problem of interaction between the Russian Federation and the United States in the fight against the narcotic threat in Afghanistan. Drawing on a wide range of sources, the author points out that there have always been vernaculars between the two countries on this issue. However, until 2014, they nevertheless interacted in different formats and only the Ukrainian crisis that formalized the current confrontational relations between Russia and the United States put an end to such interaction. In the process of working on the material, the author applied the methodology of international relations and political science. In particular, the system method, the analytical method, the method of constructing scenarios, and the method of structural-functional analysis were used. *Key words:* Russia, the United States, Afghanistan, drugs, drug trafficking, drug trafficking, Central Asia.

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR RESEARCH OF THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE POST-SOVIET STATES The Lomonosov MSU branch in Dushanbe city, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan Abstract. The integration problem of the newly independent states of former Soviet Union, into the contemporary system of international relations reflects both theoretical and practical aspects. From theoretical point, first of all, it is necessary to understand whether the paradigms of international relations can be used in forming of foreign policy of sovereign states; secondly, answer the question, on which conceptual basis and in which forms the newly independent states are participating in the Теоретические основы исследования внешней политики 62 functioning of the international political system; and thirdly, to find out the special nature of these newly independent states' foreign policy forming process. The interaction of states on the global arena has long been a focus of numerous studies. This - depiction of current events - is the focus of history of international relations, while the theory of international relations studies the forming of main methodological structures which explain appearance and development of any given world order. The main methodological schools within the theory of international relations are realism, neorealism, constructionism, institutionalism, functionalism, feminism and others, in which certain assumptions are taken as a basis consequently forming the whole system analysis. As a result, the article examines main theoretical approaches on study of foreign policy. Key words: Foreign policy, theory of international relations, theory of foreign policy, realism, neorealism, liberalism, neoliberalism.

**THE FOREIGN ECONOMY STRATEGY OF RUSSIA IN THE CIS**

*Abstract.* The purpose of the article is to show that the CIS as the integrated association of post-Soviet space, in spite of obvious deficiencies, has prospects for successful development in the interests of all member states, and Russia in its economic strategy can and has an effect on this process. The priority of the economic collaboration of Russia with the countries of the CIS, fixed in “The foreign economy strategy of Russia up to 2020” is emphasized. The author carries out comparative analysis of pluses and minuses of Russian competitive ability under conditions of anti-Russian sanctions of the West, undertaking an attempt from the objective positions to estimate the successes reached and unrealized possibilities for cooperation of Russia with the states of the CIS. Eurasian economic union is examined as the nucleus of economic integration. In the conclusions of the author, in particular, is noted, the prospect of the development of integration on the post-Soviet space with different velocities. The position of the author on the problems being investigated is presented also in a number of his previous works. *Keywords:* Russia, CIS, integration, strategy, competitive ability.

**TURKEY AND RUSSIA:**

**INTERACTION CONTRARY TO THE CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

*Abstract.*The current global policy is characterized by the intensification of economic interaction, leading powers are strengthening their influence in important regions. The growing partnership between Turkey and Russia constitutes a useful case study for examining this transformation, in which Western supremacy and US hegemony are under increasing challenge. Turkish–Russian relations shed light on broader themes in global political economy. First, significant economic interdependence may be generated among states with different political outlooks, in the form of loose regional integration schemes driven by bilateral relations between key states and supporting private actors or interests. Second, growing economic interdependence may coexist with continued political conflict and geopolitical rivalry, as indicated by the Syrian and Ukrainian crises. An important strategy that emerges is the tendency to compartmentalize economic issues and geopolitical rivalries in order to avoid negative spill-over effects. This facilitates the coexistence of extensive competition with deepening cooperation, as reflected in relations in the field of energy.

*Keywords:*global order, interaction, strategy, geopolitical interests, region

**BELARUS-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS IN 1991-2017**

Abstract. The process of formation and development of bilateral interstate relations between the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine in the post-Soviet period is penciled in the article. On the basis of available sources and publications on the subject, the author shows that the transition to a new format of relations between the republics began after the signing of the first basic bilateral Treaty between the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR in December 1990 and the establishment of diplomatic relations on December 24, 1991. After that, managed to establish a direct political dialogue, create a developed contractual framework for cooperation, which, in terms of the number of agreements signed and the coverage of various spheres of bilateral relations, is second only to cooperation Republic of Belarus with Russia. The article shows the dynamics of political contacts, taking into account the specifics of interaction at various stages of development of cooperation, attention is drawn to the discrepancy between the foreign policy priorities of the two countries, which determined the specifics of the development of bilateral relations, in which special emphasis was placed on the development of economic cooperation. Attention is paid to the specifics of the development of Belarusian-Ukrainian relations after the Ukrainian crisis (2013 – 2014) and the beginning of the conflict in the east of Ukraine. Particular emphasis is placed on the fact that Minsk has become the main negotiating ground for the settlement of the conflict in the Donbass, which has arranged all the parties concerned and has no alternative so far. In the context of the development of the political dialogue, the author considers the overall dynamics of mutual trade between the two countries, pays attention to the prospects for cooperation within the framework of the initiative of the European Union "Eastern Partnership", taking into account the attitude of the leadership of Belarus and Russia towards this project.

*Key words*: Belarus, Ukraine, bilateral relations, political contacts, post-Soviet space.

**MODERN STATE OF GEORGIAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS**

*Abstract*. The removal of sanctions from Iran in January 2016 considered positive in Georgia, as it should positively affect the region. Georgia hopes to play a significant role in a number of projects related to Iran, especially in the energy sector. Also, Iran is interesting for Georgia in terms of development of the tourism, which will have a positive effect on the Georgian economy. In turn, the Iranian business intends to use geographic location of Georgia for its energy transportation projects and its ports on the Black Sea, which Iran has long been interested in as an alternative route for transporting natural gas to Europe bypassing Turkey and Russia. *Keywords:* Georgia, Iran, sanctions, energy resources, cooperation.

**FORMATION OF THE FOREIGN**

**POLICY PRINCIPLES OF ARMENIA AND GEORGIA AFTER THE DECAY OF THE USSR**

*Abstract.* The peculiarities of forming foreign policy vectors and doctrines of national security of Armenia and Georgia after the collapse of the USSR are considered in the article. Based on the analysis of national legislation in the sphere of foreign policy and national security of the states of the South Caucasus region and the most significant scientific research in this area, the author's attention is drawn to the process of forming foreign policy principles and establishing the foundations of national security of Armenia and Georgia, protection of national-state interests. The author comes to the conclusion that both subjective and objective internal and external factors determined the opposite ways of the foreign policy development of Armenia and Georgia. The first preferred to develop, implementing the principle of complimenttarizm, the second chose the Atlantic policy of development of its foreign policy. The methodological basis of the research is the method of keys, the method of structural analysis and the method of generalization (political science and the history of international relations).

*Keywords:* Armenia, Georgia, complimentarity, Atlanticism, Russia, the United States, NATO, the European Union.

**THE UKRAINE’S ECONOMY IN THE CRISIS CONDITIONS IN 2017**

*Abstract.* The article examines the main issues of development of the Ukrainian economy in 2017. The authors analyze the indicators of economic growth, inflation, data on various sectors and the general situation in Ukrainian industry. They give a description of the budget of Ukraine for 2018, make a forecast about the realism of its indicators and evaluate the characteristics of pension and medical reforms in Ukraine. The article contains forecast of the economic development of Ukraine for 2018 year.

*Keywords:* Ukraine, economy, economic growth, inflation, investments, budget

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**NATIONAL CONCEPTS FOR THE**

**DEVELOPMENT OF COSMONAUTICS IN REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

**AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Abstract.* The article deals with the legal and conceptual base of Kazakhstan and Russia on the development of space activities. Through their study, the author justifies the legitimacy of the implementation of space activities by the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. Also in the course of their analysis, their potential is determined for the realization of international cooperation in the space sphere. Working on this issue, the author applied the methodology of studying international relations. Among the methods used by the author while working on the conceptual basis of the research, the most fundamental were: the method of comparison, the analytical method, the content analysis of the source base and the method of systematization.

*Key words:* Kazakhstan, Russia, Cosmos, cosmonautics, cooperation, Baikonur.

**EUROPEAN VECTOR OF LATVIAN FOREIGN POLICY**

*Abstract.* The article is devoted to the European vector of Latvian foreign policy. After 1991, when Latvia had declared independence, the government has stated the orientation on the West countries policy as a major goal. In 10 years the country has been integrated into European institutions, has opened its market to European goods, now actively participates in European foreign policy and in 2015 became the EU Presidency. But today, after 10 years of being a member state of the EU, it is clear that although Latvia has fulfilled the main objectives set after the declaration of independence: it has joined the EU countries and the euro area and has integrated in the European security system, – but the consequences were far from any optimistic forecasts. The author explores the changes in Latvia for the ten-year period, which led to mass emigration and economic crisis. The author analyzes the main motives of both Latvia and the EU for Latvia's accession to the European Union, and also shows the process of coming from candidate country to Member State. In addition, the author analyzes the geopolitical importance of Latvia to the EU, which outweighed the economic risks for one or the other side. The author notes that Latvia's accession to the EU has only deepened the existing problems in Latvia, which is why it is among the poorest countries in the EU. The author's analysis shows exactly what of the government's expectations were not realized: in particular, state of the medicine has deteriorated, and there was a mass exodus of residents abroad – and why it happened.

*Key words:*Latvia, Russia, EU, Baltic States, NATO, EU accession.

**2018 T1 №2**

**THE THIRTY YEARS OF THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT: BASIC STAGES AND PROSPECTS OF THE RESOLUTION**

*Abstract****.*** The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (small piece of the South Caucasus of 4,4 sq.km in size) became one of the first ethnopolitical confrontations in the former USSR space. For the thirty years it was transformed from inter-communal and inter-republican conflict within one state to the serious international problem with no clear prospects to be resolved. After the Soviet Union dissolution both Armenia and Azerbaijan have been engaged in the confrontation. Till today they have no diplomatic relations and reliable economic ties while their borders are closed. Although the ceasefire was reached in May, 1994 the conflicting sides face regular violations of it. The most dangerous case was registered in April, 2016. The negotiations are held but their effectiveness is extremely low. This article is devoted to the analysis of the basic stages of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Author considers positions of the conflicting sides and different external actors as well including Russia, USA, EU, Turkey and Iran. The Nagorno-Karabakh case is analyzed in comparison with other post-Soviet conflicts. *Keywords:* Armenia, Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh, ethno-political conflict, nationbuilding, security, conflict resolution, foreign policy.

**THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE NKR FROM AZERBAIJANI REPUBLIC IN 1991**

*Abstract.* From December 1st, 1989 until the autumn of 1991, the authorities of the NKAR, the USSR, the Azerbaijani and Armenian SSR adopted no decisions on the legal status of NKAR and other Armenian territories of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh). Proceeding from the need to preserve the USSR, the Kremlin made serious concessions to the Union republics, adopting legislative acts that strengthened the sovereignty and rights of the Union republics to the detriment of autonomous entities. However, the fear of the collapse of the Soviet Union forced the Kremlin to take steps to prevent or limit the possible actions of the Union republics aimed at secession from the Union. On April 3rd, 1990, the USSR Law "On the Procedure for solving issues connected with the withdrawal of the Union Republic from the USSR" has been passed, regulating the procedure for the withdrawal of a union republic, holding a referendum for this purpose, and so on. Article 3 of the law read: "In the union republic, which includes autonomous republics, autonomous regions and districts, a referendum is held separately for each autonomy. For the peoples of the autonomous republics and autonomous entities, the right to independently resolve the issue of stay in the USSR or in the seceding union republic, as well as on raising the question of its statelegal status. In the Union Republic, in the territory of which there are places of compact residence of national groups making up the majority of the population of this locality, in determining the results of a referendum, the results of voting on these areas are taken into account separately". In September-December 1991, NagornoKarabakh used the USSR Law of April 3rd, 1990 to proclaim the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Artsakh Republic) and its legal withdrawal from the former Azerbaijan SSR, avoiding any legislative conflict in this procedure. *Keywords:* Status of the NKAR, Azerbaijani SSR, Armenian SSR, USSR, The USSR Law, republics, autonomy, withdrawal, Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, Artsakh.

**NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT: PREHISTORY, DEVELOPMENT, CONSEQUENCES**

*Abstract.* The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict entered the history of the twentieth century as one of the most tragic, reflected in the destinies of millions of people. As in the pre-war stage of the conflict, and subsequently, the moral truth was on the Azerbaijani side, which defended the status quo, the administrative-territorial division, which did not impede the comprehensive development of the Azerbaijani and Armenian nations.As a result of the aggression of Armenia in 1993-1994, seven districts were captured: Kelbadjar, Lachin, Kubatly, Jabrail, Zangilan, Agdam and Fizuli. About 1 million people became refugees and internally displaced persons. In May 1994, the Bishkek Protocol on Armistice was signed. The escalation of the armed conflict in 1993 resulted in the adoption by the UN Security Council of four resolutions in 1993: April 30, July 29, October 14 and November 12, 1993. These resolutions confirmed the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and adopted the formulation «Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan*». Keywords*:NagornoKarabakh, conflict, Armenian aggression, occupation, refugees.

**THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT: THE MAIN EVENTS BEFORE AND AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE**

*Abstract.* The article analyzes historical events in the late 20th century that intensified the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and caused an armed clash between the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples. After the collapse of the USSR, this conflict immediately turned into an interstate problem between the two newly independent countries - the Republic of Azerbaijan (AR) and the Republic of Armenia (RA). Moreover, this conflict was the reason that the two newly formed states were dragged into a bloody armed confrontation almost from the first days of gaining their independence. The armed conflict, that killed approximately 50 thousand people according to official statistics, was possible to stop in 1994. The Bishkek protocol was signed on May 5, 1994 in Bishkek with the participation of the delegations of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh: the parties pledged to stop the military actions on the night of May 9. *Keywords:* the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Armenia, Azerbaijan, NKAO, the settlement of the conflict, the collapse of the USSR.

**NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT: ECONOMIC REALITIES AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

*Abstract*. Current article considers territorial conflicts in the South Caucasus as a counteracting factor to the economic development of the region as a whole and each of the countries located here alone. Analytical and situational review concludes that conflicts pursuing unfamiliar to the interests of the people of the South Caucasus, significantly undermine the development potential, interrupts sub regional participation in the global process of the world economic. The only viable option of progressive movements is the restoration of the territorial integrity of countries, which were subject to aggression and occupation, as well as the phased establishment of economic integration relations at regional level. *Keywords:* territorial conflicts, aggressive separatism, economic interests, the loss of the war, regional cooperation, effect of economic integration.

**NAGORNO-KARABAKH: RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT THROUGH REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

*Abstract*. The article considers the Karabakh conflict - one of the most protracted, brutal and complex ethno-territorial conflicts in the post-Soviet space. It examines the main obstacles facing the settlement and the prospects for resolving the conflict. One of the conclusions is that the Karabakh conflict cannot be resolved exclusively at the domestic level and requires a combination of interstate measures with interstate and supranational measures. Thus, this article advocates a three-stage approach to conflict resolution - the introduction of the fundamental principles of the solution, which will reduce uncertainty and provide a "road map"; the creation of a bilateral agreement on the division of power, which will be based on equal relations between Azerbaijanis and Armenians on the sub-state (Nagorno-Karabakh) level; and the unification of this agreement on the division of power with regional integration. *Keywords:* Nagorno-Karabakh, conflict, refugees, settlement, integration

**PROSPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH**

*Abstract.* The process of negotiations on the settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh problem has entered a stage, when to speak about the prospects for the settlement of the issue in near future will be, at least, extremely optimistic. Its origins are based on the fact that over the last decade and a half, official Baku has been pursuing an uncompromising policy towards the settlement of the conflict and spreading myths about Artsakh and its history, which led to the formation of new stereotypes against Armenians in Azerbaijan. On the other hand, relying on energy sources, Azerbaijan annually increases its military expenditures, showing obvious ambitions in the region of new anarchism. And a clear indication of this is the registration of periodic stages of military operations on the border with the Republic of Artsakh in recent years. In these conditions, the Armenian side continues to strengthen and stabilize the Republic of Artsakh. Official Yerevan does not see yet another alternative to the settlement of Постсоветские исследования. Т. 1. № 2 (2018) 185 the conflict than the international recognition of its independent status. The Republic of Artsakh is pursuing a very active foreign policy, establishing political contacts with both unrecognized, partially recognized countries and with full-fledged subjects of international relations. On the other hand, over the past decade, Artsakh has become more recognizable, as it has been recognized by various US states, the Republic of Artsakh has its representations in different parts of the world. Can the Republic of Artsakh become a new precedent for the development of unrecognized republics or the settlement of conflicts? We believe that there are all the positive prerequisites for this: the offensive and uncompromising policy pursued by Azerbaijan proves that there is no alternative to this. *Keywords:* Republic of Artsakh, NagornoKarabakh conflict, security, the Southern Caucasus, recognition.

**THE PERSPECTIVE OF RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH: FACTORS OF INEVITABILITY**

Abstract. The Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh Republic) is a responsible state that does not threaten anyone with a war and does not make territorial claims against its neighbors, which does not require the immediate withdrawal of Azerbaijani troops from the occupied lands of Artsakh (NagornoKarabakh). Unlike Azerbaijan, the Republic of Artsakh, recognizing itself as a successful and competent state, is ready for direct Azerbaijani-Karabakh negotiations. It should be noted that in international law there are no norms obliging the self-determining state to receive the consent of the metropolis, from which it is separated. The Republic of Artsakh (NKR) was formed as a result of a nationwide referendum on state independence held in Nagorno-Karabakh on December 10, 1991, in full compliance with both international law and the legislation of the USSR that still existed at that time. Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights and Duties of States, which was signed in Montevideo (Uruguay) on December 26, 1933, states that «the political existence of the state does not depend on recognition by other states». The civilized and lasting settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict should be based on the following principles: determination of the status of the Republic of Artsakh (NKR) the exclusive right of the people of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), the international final recognition of the state independence of the Republic of Artsakh (NKR), the mutual recognition of the independence of the Republic of Artsakh (NKR) and the Republic of Azerbaijan, restoration of the territorial integrity of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), peaceful settlement of disputes and non-use of force or threat of force. The UN Charter and international law imperatively dictate the need for recognition of the Republic Artsakh (NKR). The uniqueness of the situation in the settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict, unlike other conflicts, lies in the fact that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs of Russia, the United States, and France have no disagreements; all three powers recognize the right of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) to selfdetermination. A joint final recognition of the independence of the Republic Artsakh (NKR) would contribute to regional security and sta bility, ensuring their national interests, and would create a precedent for a civilized settlement of the conflict. Keywords: Republic of Artsakh, Nagorno Karabakh Republic, international law, recognition, referendum, regional security.

**NAGORNO-KARABAKH THROUGH THE PRISM OF INFORMATION WARFARE**

*Abstract.* Political identity often becomes the element that gives rise to geopolitical confrontation between different interests. Political identity is becoming increasingly important for those territories whose fate is inextricably linked to recent military conflicts, controversial and unresolved problems of the international plan. The political entity that has been able to gain the trust of representatives of a particular identity – ethnic, religious and often related political, as a rule, provides itself with various kinds of support: value, ideological, electoral, economic, military, etc.from the local population. But in today's conditions of active development of the information society, it is not power technologies, but media technologies for constructing political identities, that are of crucial importance. Traditional (Newspapers, radio) and new (social networks, blogs, forums) media and media that occupy a borderline position between them (television), practicing fighting techniques for the formation of public opinion, reproducing or destroying, in turn identity on a particular territory. The aim of this work is to analyze the methods of information confrontation between political actors for dominance over the representatives of the political identity of Nagorno-Karabakh. The author comes to the conclusion that the major political actors who try to influence the conflict, are not only regional interested parties, but Russia and the United States. However, due to the information war between these actors, there is a new threat to the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. *Key words*: Nagorno Karabakh, political identity, information wars, Russia, USA, Armenia, Azerbaijan.

**THE ROLE OF RUSSIA IN SETTLEMENT OF THE NAGORNOKARABAKH CONFLICT**

Abstract. The article researches the mediation role of Russia, aimed at the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. At the same time, special attention is paid to the recent events in the confrontation between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which broke out with renewed force in early April 2016. It seems that it is thanks to Russia's assistance that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can be resolved in the future. At the same time, the nature of the conflict itself is considered in historical retrospect, taking into account both the cultural and ethnic characteristics of the people inhabiting it and geopolitical realities, taking into account the strategic importance of the region in Transcaucasia. While preparing the material, the author applied the methodology of historical and political sciences. In particular, methods of historical analysis, retrospective assessments and political structural analytics were used. Keywords: Nagorno-Karabakh, conflict, Russia, mediation, settlement, Armenia, Azerbaijan.

**NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT THROUGH PRISM OF TURKEIARMENIAN**

Abstract. The unsolved conflict of the Nagorno-Karabakh is one of the most serious problems of the entire South Caucasus region, and it remains, almost the most acute issue in the relations between Armenia and Turkey. In this part of the work we are trying to understand the reasons for the emergence of this conflict and the role that Turkey played in it. Realizing the religious, political and linguistic affinity of Turkey and Azerbaijan, it is not too difficult to explain the policy of providing moral and later even partially military support from Turkey to Azerbaijan in the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh. It is much more difficult to identify optimal solutions that can at least partially eliminate the problems and contradictions that have accumulated between the two former Soviet republics of Transcaucasia. Considering the problem of NagornoKarabakh in the historical retrospective, the author will try at least to bring the reader closer to an understanding of the stated scientific problems. Preparing the study, the author used a wide methodological toolkit, including: the method of historical analysis, the method of keys, the comparative method, the method of political analysis. Keywords: Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, armed conflict, tension.

**AZERBAIJANI-RUSSIAN RELATIONS: CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES (1991-1994)**

Abstract. The article is focused on the Russian-Azerbaijani relations at the stage of their formation in the first years after the collapse of the USSR. Moreover, the formation of the Russian-Azerbaijani bilateral agenda is viewed through the prism of the internal political situation in Azerbaijan during the reign of the first president of independent Azerbaijan, A. Mutalibov, later displaced by the representative of the nationalist movement, the Popular Front of Azerbaijan, A. Elchibey, and till he rise to power of G. Aliev. It is worth mentioning that the period of the rule of each of the above-named leaders of Azerbaijan, despite the short-term (except of G. Aliyev), differed fundamentally in alternative approaches to the formation of RussianAzerbaijani relations: from the pro-Russian foreign policy vector of A. Mutalibov to the nationalist and the pro-Western course of President A. Elchibey. The pragmatic approach to building relations between Azerbaijan and Russia began to be practiced only by G. Aliev, who came to power in the country in June 1993. Working on the study, the author used a number of methods of historical and political science. The method of historical comparative studies, the historical retrospective method and the method of political analytics are forming the basis of the academic tools used by the author in writing this study. Keywords: Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan, Armenia. Russia, conflict, CIS, the Popular Front.

**FORMATION OF FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN THE POST-SOVIET SPACE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 1990S. AND THE PROBLEM OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT**

Abstract. The article explores the dynamics and the processes of Russia’s foreign policy priorities development over the volatile period of early to mid-1990’s after the Soviet breakup, its impact on the Russia’s policies in the South Caucasus and impactions for the Karabakh conflict settlement process. Specifically, the initial period of elaboration and formulation of foreign policy interests as well as the modalities of realization of those interests on the regional (postSoviet) arena were influenced by the domestic, institutional and region-wide transformations. The laissez faire and isolationist stance of Russia liberal wing elite towards the developments within the post-Soviet space was transformed at the helm of 1993/94 to a much more harder posture. In 1993-1994 RF significantly bolstered its role as a leading power in providing regional security, activating peacekeeping initiatives and mediation efforts in Karabakh conflict settlement process. Key words: Russia, foreign policy, the South Caucasus, Transcaucasus, NagornoKarabakh conflict, peacekeeping, OCSE.

**2018 Т1 №3**

**ANALYSIS OF POST-SOVIET COUNTRIES THROUGH THE LENS OF COMMUNICATIVE THEORIES OF POWER MANUEL CASTELLS**

*Abstract.* The study of the specifics of post-Soviet countries using the tools of communicative theories of power Manuel Castells - the purpose of this article. As a working methodology used the principles of comparative political science comparative research, based on analysis of comparable political institutions, processes and phenomena. The author in his analysis of post-Soviet countries takes into account the following points communicative theory of power: the human mind can be manipulated, given its dependence on political metaphors, narratives and frames; power relations are characterized by dynamics between the power and the counter-power in the communication environment; contemporary political actors – the state, politicians, parties, movements (from moderate to extremist) in the process of the struggle for power should replace traditional forms of relationship with political entities in the network. While the article emphasizes that such political technologies, practiced by different stakeholders, eventually focus on the conditions of network development. In the study the Author comes to the conclusion that the post-Soviet States are not only using direct political censorship on the Internet but moving to the paradigm of the formation of politicized loyal online communities that promote active legitimation of the existing political regimes. *Key words:* political technologies, political communication, post-Soviet countries, Internet, power, state, social network, network community, Manuel Castells.

**UKRAINE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY VECTOR OF THE USA**

*Abstract.* The article researches the main aspects of the US strategy towards Ukraine. The collapse of the Soviet Union and, as a result, the emergence of new independent states led to a new geopolitical situation both in Eastern Europe and throughout the world. Independent Ukraine with a population of over 50 million people has become in a moment one of the most important players in the Eastern European space, so Western politicians began to observe with interest Ukraine and its maneuvers in the sphere of foreign policy. Western geopolitical thought referred Ukraine to the "divided countries", which formed considerable fears on its account in terms of development prospects, then assessed it as a country that, by its independent status, is capable of trans-forming the whole Eurasia. Proceeding from these aspects, the dilemma of real political and economic strategies towards Ukraine occurred: whether to invest in its huge resources and financial potential in exchange for strategic loyalty and the ability to be used in anti-Russian geopolitical combinations, or to refuse from investments and other active participation in its destiny that are not that worthy, having reconciled with the weakening of their influence in the region and even with the possible strengthening of Russia's positions. *Key words*: USA, Ukraine, strategy of foreign policy, interests, geopolitics.

**POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA IN THE CASPIAN REGION**

Abstract. The purpose of this article is to analyze the foreign policy of Russia and the USA in the Caspian region, namely Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. After the collapse of the Soviet Union the region became the object of particular attention by the major regional players. Unresolved question of the legal status of the Caspian sea, the problem of reliable transportation of hydrocarbons, as well as security issues play a key role in this region of Eurasia. In the opinion of the author, and the United States and the Russian Federation at the moment are actively using a policy of "soft power" to advance its interests in the region. The author, after analyzing the main features of foreign policy of the US and Russia in the Caspian region, came to the conclusion that if the main key tools for promoting US interests in the region are the numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - the main conductors of a policy of "soft power" of the United States, for Russia the main tool to promote its interests is a policy of economic integration that is reflected in creating politicaleconomic unions (such as the Eurasian economic Union EAEU) and the development of numerous cultural ties. The work concludes that the political interests of Russia and the USA in the Caspian region will escalate in the future because of the continued US policy (begun under the Obama administration), aimed at achieving energy independence and oust Russia from the region, despite the fact that the attraction of resources of the Caspian sea will be for the United States is relatively expensive project. Key words: soft power, power capacity, legal status, geopolitical interests, political and cultural values, non-governmental organizations, pipelines, energy cooperation

**KUBAN QUESTION BY THE UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES**

Abstract. The political crisis in RussianUkrainian relations helped strengthen the nationalist and extremist groups, aiming at the presentation of territorial claims to the Russian Federation. The Russian-Ukrainian territorial disputes had a significant place in the 1920s, they became relevant now. The author of the article raises the issue of the territorial claims of official Kiev on the territory of Krasnodar region. Key words: Cossacks, the Kuban, the Right sector, territorial claims, Ukraine

**THE STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATION PROCESSES IN THE CIS**

Abstract. In this article deals with the issues of formation and development of the SCO: development stages of integration processes in the CIS; the SCO as one of the integration formats of the CIS States; In this work confirms the idea that for a short period, the SCO evolved from the consultative mechanism of the neighboring countries on border issues and confidencebuilding measures in the military field to a diversified international organization with a significant military-economic potential. Starting with cooperation in the fight against international terrorism, separatism and political extremism, it expanded the scope of its activities in the economic sphere and then on areas such as health, education, culture, tourism, etc., which suggests that the Organization created not only for keeping destructive forces, but also to rapprochement of the peoples of the participating countries to further grow their economies and improve the welfare of citizens. Keywords: integration, CIS, security, SCO, CSTO.

**CONCEPTUAL BASES OF PROJECTS THE ECONOMIC BELT OF THE SILK ROAD AND THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION**

Abstract. The article considers the conceptual foundations of the Chinese initiative "The Economic belt of the Silk Road" and the Russian project "Eurasian Economic Union". The author comes to the conclusion that EPS is an inevitable result of regional cooperation and social development in the era of economic globalization, that is, China has put forward such an initiative, considering not only the need for China's own development, but also the need for long-term development of Eurasia. In turn, one of the ideological variations in the development of Russia can serve as the ideas of Eurasianism, the admission to which will allow our country to unite states, with fears related to attempts of the collective West led by the USA to plant its hegemony. Preparing the study, the author used a huge methodological list of economic and political science. These are: the method of normative analysis, the method of induction, and the method of systemic analysis (economics). The method of constructing scenarios and the normative-value approach are the political tools of this study. Keywords: Economic belt of the Silk Road, Eurasian Economic Union, Russia, China, Central Asia, conjugation

**TURKEY AND RUSSIA: IS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP POSSIBLE?**

Abstract. The article examines TurkishRussian relations with an emphasis on the increasing role of "new powers" in a changing global order. Turkey, as an old member of the Western bloc and a candidate for membership in the European Union (EU), wants to play a more active role as an independent power, as at the regional and global levels. The peculiarity of Turkish-Russian relations is due to the fact that both countries have an imperial heritage and perceive themselves as decisive regional and global actors, which sometimes goes beyond their real possibilities. This element of discrepancy between expectations and ability clearly distinguishes both Turkey and Russia from many other powers. At a time when both countries are facing a relative distance from the EU and the US as a result of their more aggressive foreign policy steps, their respective geopolitical views on a higher international status complement their partnership, despite sharp differences on issues such as Syria. Failures in Turkey's cooperation with the United States, strong anti-Israeli rhetoric and "flirting" with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are of concern to its Western allies. Nevertheless, given Turkey's longstanding diplomatic, economic and military ties with the West, although Turkey has been pursuing a more independent foreign policy in recent years, especially in the face of growing disappointment with the EU membership process, Turkey does not intend to completely separate from the West and give priority to relations with its troubled neighbors. Keywords: Turkey, Russia, interdependence, strategic partnership, conflict.

**PREHISTORY OF RUSSIA’S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO IN THE NEW ERA (1991-2012). (PART TWO)**

Abstract. The article is devoted to the problem of relationship between Russian Federation and NATO in the XXI century. The relevance of the question is indisputable considering the fact that the global stability in the world depends on both positive or negative tendencies in this relationship. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union the new quality of cooperation between NATO and Russia seemed to be outworked. But still there is a huge list of factors and unsolved problems between this two key actors of the international relations which cannot grant permanent security and stability in the world. The present-day crisis that forms the political and international agenda today grows on the soil of this complex of issues which were either ignored or underestimated in the 1990-s – first decade of the 2000-s and now we just yield what we've got. The article doesn't have the objection to analyze the ongoing crisis in Ukraine or disagreements between Russia and the USA on Syria e t.c. The authors wanted to analyze prehistorical backgrounds of the relationship between NATO and Russia and, maybe, reveal some crucial points responsible for turning this relationship on the road of new confrontation. That's why our research chronologically includes two decades past the collapse of the USSR (1991-2012). The authors consider that it was the crucial time when the fundamental basis of the potential cooperation between Russia and NATO was formed. Working on the material the authors applied to the methodology of political science and international relations. The methods of political analysis, structural analysis and invent-analysis (studying the official documents) were used in the article. For the better understanding of the issue and in order to prevent the readers from the danger of being “over-informed” the authors divided the material into two parts. The first part published in №1 of the Journal was devoted to the historical analysis of the Cold War. The second one, introduced in this number, reflects the post-Cold war situation in the world in the last decade of the XX-first decade of the XXI-st centuries. Keywords: Russia, NATO, cooperation, missiles, disarmament, expansion, defense.

**IMPACT OF THE AFGHAN CRISIS ON THE ISLAMIZATION PROCESS IN CENTRAL ASIA**

Abstract. The Central Asian region is today one of the most "explosive". There are several reasons for that. The first is that since the disintegration of the united Soviet space of defense and security, guaranteed within the USSR for more than 70 years, a colossal ideological, political, ideological and spiritual vacuum has formed, which is inevitably attractive for the forces that expect to consolidate their positions in the region. Not least, various organizations of radical Islamic and pseudo-religious persuasion are meant here. The second reason lies in one of the main sources of threats to the security of the Central Asian region of the CIS since the early 90s. It is the consistently unsettled Afghan problem. Restoring peace and stability in Afghanistan is one of the urgent international and regional problems, first of all for the states of Central Asia, directly facing the negative consequences of the long-term war in that country. The conflict in Afghanistan gave rise to threats and challenges to the stability and security of the countries of Central Asia, which are experiencing a difficult stage in the formation and strengthening of their statehood, such as religious extremism, ethnic intolerance, terrorism, drug trafficking and arms smuggling. Moreover, the possibility of transferring a conflict situation from Afghanistan to the CIS countries is by no means hypothetical. First of all, because both sides of the border reside representatives of the same ethnic groups, for centuries connected with each other by ties of a historical and cultural community, and sometimes even kinship. All these factors cause the complexity of solving the problem, traditional political or humanitarian approaches to which are not effective in this case. Using the methodology of political science (the method of political analysis) and historical science (the historical-analytical method, the method of comparison and the method of retrospective evaluation), the author tried to identify key specific features, characteristic for the processes occurring in the region during the last three decades. Key words: Afghanistan, CIS, Central Asia, terrorism, islamization, radicalism.

**SPECIFIC FEATURES OF DEVELOPMENT OF UKRANIAN POLITICAL PARTIES AS A RECRUTING-CHANNEL FOR NATIONAL ELITES AFTER THE “EUROMAIDAN”**

Abstract. There is made an attempt to analyze the peculiarities of the development of Ukrainian political parties as a channel for recruiting national elites after the sociopolitical changes in the country to which «Euromaydan» had led. Particular attention is paid to comparing the value of party membership «before" and "after» February 2014. In addition, there are analyzed modern theoretical developments on the problems under study. When working on the material the author used the following list og methodological instruments: method of political analysis, comparative method, method of retrospective estimation and content-analysis. Keywords: political party, political membership, Euromaidan, corruption

**2018Т1№4**

**BELARUS AND RUSSIA CULTURAL COOPERATION: TO THE QUESTION OF THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE PROBLEM**

Abstract. The article is devoted to a historiographical review of research on the problems of cultural cooperation between Belarus and Russia. The material briefly highlights the content of the presented works and concludes the state of the study of this topic in Belarusian historiography. The author singles out three levels of cultural cooperation between Belarus and Russia - bilateral, interregional and multilateral. The article notes the need for a comprehensive study of the cultural ties between the two countries, their importance is noted in the formation of a unified humanitarian space of the CIS.

**BELARUSIAN DIASPORA IN RUSSIA IN THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

Abstract. The issues of the Belarusian diaspora in the Russian Federation are essentially new in the Belarusian historiography, inspite of a number of publications. The article examines the main areas and topics related to research in the field of Belarusian diasporology. A brief analysis of the most significant publications printed to date is given. The general characteristics of the sources and their differentiation according to the subject of research are given. Separately, periodicals and their role in covering issues related to the history and contemporary status of the Belarusian communities in Russia are singled out. The author emphasized unsolved scientific problems that will be implemented in the Belarusian diasporology in the near future. The importance of the use of scientific methods of research is underlined, special emphasis should be placed on interdisciplinary methods. Kewwords: historiography, Belarusian diaspora, Belarusians of Russia, national and cultural societies, Russian Federation, Republic of Belarus.

**UNION OF RUSSIA AND BELARUS IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROINTEGRATION TO THE HISTORY OF THE QUESTION**

Abstract. The article discusses the opposition of relations between Russia and Belarus to external forces. What are the prospects of the Russia-Belarus union in the context of European integration? The author analyzed in detail the US and EU policy towards Belarus and Minsk's reaction to the steps being taken. Keywords: Belarus, Russia, European Union, European integration, West, East

**POLITICAL, ECONOMICAL AND SPIRITUAL FEATURES OF FORMING OF THE RUSSIAN-BELARUS UNION STATE**

Abstract. The article researches the main stages of preparing the signing of the Union Treaty between the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation on April 2nd, 1997, as well as the formation of the Union State of Russia and Belarus The material analyzes such questions as the political agenda, the economic specifics and, not least, the spiritual identity of the two nations. At the same time, the author does not ignore a number of controversial issues and double-edged problems facing the leadership of the Union State. Analyzing their causes, the author tries to identify a vector, the movement along which would facilitate their joint overcoming without conflicts and disputes. The author also pays special attention to the formation of the information policy of the Union State, noting the role of the media in creating and consolidating the positive image of the partner country under the Treaty in the public eye. Also, the organization of the media of the Union State is touched in the material. Working on the material, the author used the methodology of political, economic and historical sciences. In particular, the method of political analysis, quantitative assessments and the historical-analytical method were applied. Keywords: USSR, Russia, Belarus, Union Treaty, Union State, mass media.

**BELARUS AS A TARGET FOR THE «COLOR REVOLUTION»**

Abstract. The article researches the prospects of the «color revolution» scenario in the Republic of Belarus. The author studies the phenomenon of the «color revolution» and the factors that determine its application. It is proved that the «color revolution» is the essence of the apex state revolution. It is shown that the events that took place in Belarus in February-March, 2017, were not an attempt to implement a «color revolution». The conditions that at present prevent the implementation of the scenario for the de-installation of the political regime in Belarus have been identified. In particular, the loyalty of the law enforcement agencies to the political regime operating in the country is attributed to those. At the same time, the circumstances that are capable of encouraging a future protest in Belarus are also noted, and the author considers the growth of nationalistic sentiments in the republic as such. Keywords: Belarus, color revolution, coup d'etat, protest.

**RELATIONS OF BELARUS AND THE EU IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS**

Abstract: The dynamics of the development of relations between the Republic of Belarus and the European Union in the context of the events in Ukraine is the key point of the article. The author notes that the breakthrough in relations between official Minsk and Brussels after Minsk-2 and an analysis of bilateral relations, showing that the activities of A. Lukashenko in the light of the development of the Ukrainian crisis directly influenced the improvement of relations between the European Union and Belarus. Ключевые слова: Belarus, EU, Ukraine, crisis, Minsk-2.

**RUSSIAN COOPERATION WITH BELARUS AS A MODEL FOR BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH SERBIA**

Abstract: The author of this article made the analysis of current political situation and foreign policy features of Serbia and Belarus in order to determine similarities and differences between them. The research helped to see that the model of Russian-Belarus cooperation may and must be applied towards Serbia. In context of growing possibility of Serbia's joining EU, it becomes extremely topical to elaborate potential measures from Russia aimed at strengthening the partnership with Serbia. The author proposes some of such measures. Key words: Russia, Serbia, Belarus, EU, NATO.

**RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN HUMANITARIAN AND CULTURAL SPHERES**

Abstract. This article is focused on the least studied areas of relations of Belarus with European countries: cultural and humanitarian ones. Special attention is paid to the psychological aspects of the relationship, namely, people's perception of their foreign neighbors. The main goal of the article is to show, on numerous examples, the broad opportunities that the humanitarian and cultural spheres provide for the improvement and activation of ties between the peoples of Belarus and European countries. Key words: Belarus, EU, humanitarian cooperation, cultural ties

**ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF RUSSIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

Abstract. This article is devoted to the development of economic relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus. For many years, Belarus has remained the most important economic partner of Russia. Russia and Belarus have been most consistently implementing their economic integration among all the countries of CIS. The Republic of Belarus is deeply integrated into the Russian economy and is interested in maintaining and deepening its economic ties with its eastern neighbor, in preferences for itself in the purchase of Russian fuel and energy resources and other types of mineral raw materials, as well as in supplying its goods and services to the Russian market. At the same time, Belarus is the most important strategic partner for Russia, which is interested in the reliability of transport (rail, road, air, pipeline) and other communications with the European Union. A considerable part of Russian oil and gas is supplied through the territory of the republic. Keywords: Russia, Belarus, integration, Union of Belarus and Russia, Eurasian economic union.

**2018Т1№5**

**CENTRAL ASIA IN FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES OF RUSSIA: HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS**

Abstract. The region of Central Asia is traditionally assigned an important place in Russia's foreign policy strategy. Considering the vast areas of the Russian state, maintaining security and controlling long borders has always been an uneasy and responsible foreign policy task. In this regard, it was very important for the Russian leadership to find the most favorable geopolitical locations, which, on the one hand, made it possible to contain external threats and, on the other hand, to spread their own influence. One of such outposts of Russia's geopolitical influence was and remains the Central Asian region. Considering a wide range of issues on the geopolitical agenda, the author reveals the main foreign policy priorities in Russia's policy towards the states of Central Asia. The methodological basis for this was the methods of political analysis and historical evaluation. Key words: Russia, Central Asia, Eurasia, geopolitics, resources, economics.

**CENTRAL ASIA IN THE FOREIGN POLICY CONCEPT OF TURKEY**

Abstract. The internal political processes taking place in Turkey over the past 15 years will have a direct impact on Central Asia. First, Turkey will increasingly put forward the "Gulen factor" in the agenda of bilateral relations with Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Secondly, in the conditions of political instability in Turkey, for the countries of the region, the risks associated with the return of Central Asian militants through the territory of Turkey are of particular concern. Thirdly, further normalization of relations between Moscow and Ankara can be an important stage in strengthening the influence of Ankara in the region in the long term. At present, both countries are key strategic and economic partners for the countries of Central Asia. At the same time, the threats associated with the destabilization of Afghanistan and the prospects for Turkey's involvement in the Chinese initiative "The Economic Belt of the Silk Road" will fuel Ankara's interest in expanding interaction with Central Asian countries in transport and logistics and infrastructure projects. However, given Turkey's active involvement in Middle Eastern affairs and the transformation of the EU, its key trading partner, Ankara's role in the Central Asian processes will remain limited in the foreseeable future. Using an extensive methodological toolkit, the author examines the foreign policy concept of Turkey in the Central Asian region, taking into account the above listed factors. Keywords: Central Asia, Turkey, cooperation, energetic, culture, politics, fight against terrorism, neoosmanism.

**THE PROBLEM OF THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES IN THE USА POLICY**

Abstract: A key influence on the global American strategy is provided by the democratization of society and the protection of human rights, which is also actively used by the United States as the fundamental principles of development. This is due to the fact that democracy, in the opinion of the American government, is one of the most important criteria of a developed state, as well as the existence of a conflict-free society. As a process of development of the state, democratization is a means of transformation in society, its improvement and harmonization. This process has an impact on the political system in the United States, which in turn reflects the position of the state on the world arena, its foreign policy course. The process of democratization in Central Asia has significant differences, depending on customs, traditions, historical and ideological features. Opportunities for the development and promotion of democracy in the Central Asian society are related to the level of economic development of states, as well as the degree of their integration into the world community. During the research, the author used a number of methods of political and historical sciences. In particular, the method of political analysis and historical comparativistics. Key words: Kazakhstan, CIS, democratization, reforms, USA, cooperation.

**ENCLAVES IN CENTRAL ASIA: BACKGROUND AND ACTUAL**

Abstract. The enclaves one of the factors that complicate the positive development of relations between neighboring Central Asian countries. This is because of position’s contradictions of the parties in modern attempts to identify location of state borders around enclaves. The position mismatch is due to the history of the formation of enclaves dating the 1920s when the national-territorial demarcation followed by consequences of local authorities wrong actions solving the land relation problems. Most border conflicts around enclaves involving the armed forces and local civilians taking place in Central Asia. In this paper the author estimates the process of forming enclaves in Central Asia and offers recommendations for solving problems. Keywords: Enclaves, Central Asia, history of formation of enclaves, problem solving, disputed territories, territorial separation of nations in Central Asia.

**THE SITUATION IN THE FERGHANA VALLEY AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE FOREIGN POLICY OF RUSSIA IN KYRGYZSTAN**

Abstract. The article considers the situation in the Fergana Valley, the history of its origin, and the role and place of this territory in bilateral relations between Russia and Kyrgyzstan and in Russia's regional policy. The author concludes that the conflicts in the Fergana Valley may further become a source of imbalance in the region, because of the high danger of events unfolding in the Fergana Valley and the gradual involvement of Islamist forces in the struggle in this region. Working on the research the author implemented the following methods: historical and analytical methods, the method of ethnical research and the method of political analysis. Keywords: Fergana Valley, borders, interethnic conflict, military base.

**REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN AND REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA. BILATERAL COOPERATION OF KINDRED SPIRIT PARTNERS**

Abstract. For more than 20 years, Indonesia and Kazakhstan have maintained strong relations based on constantly developing cooperation. Geographical remoteness does not affect the "affinity" of these countries as actors in the international arena. Both states have an impressive economic base and strong human potential. Indonesia and Kazakhstan are taking the lead in their regions and actively participate in the integration processes that shape the geopolitical space. The present article aims to comprehend the current stage of bilateral relations between Indonesia and Kazakhstan and to identify prospects for their further development. Key words: Indonesia, Kazakhstan, bilateral relations, national interests.

**REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION: THE NATURE AND FEATURES OF ENERGY COOPERATION**

Abstract. Kazakhstan, which is rich in oil and gas and other raw materials, is defined by the European Union as a strategically important state in Central Asia. If in the 1990s, the EU held the position of the main investors as transnational companies in the oil and gas fields of Kazakhstan, today the EU is losing its significance in the conditions of competition with Russia and China. The European Union is gradually losing assets in the main oil and gas fields and pipelines in the Caspian region. In connection with the emerging problems, a new EU energy policy is developing. The article analyzes the tendency of development of energy cooperation of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union. A feature of the energy policy of Kazakhstan in the 1990s and 2000s has changed. There was analyzed the main foreign policy documents defining the energy relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the EU. Using the structural method of analysis in writing this article, the author relied on the following methodological basis: liberal concepts in the study of economic relations, the theory of neo-realism in determining the ideology of the EU, geopolitical theories to identify the determinative factors of cooperation. Keywords: Kazakhstan, European Union, energy cooperation.

**ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE HIGH-SPEED RAILWAYS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL ASIA**

Abstract. Even in the Western Han Dynasty, China discovered the ancient Silk Road, and this played a significant role in the trade-economic and cultural exchange between East and West. And now all countries that have experienced the financial crisis of 2008 are facing economic recovery. With the increasingly difficult international situation and the slowdown in world economic growth, China has put forward a political initiative "one belt and one way" and is also actively promoting it. China seeks to find a new model for international cooperation. Now the Central Asian countries are on the new Silk Road, and they need an international trade exchange with other countries. Everyone knows that for the trade exchange, first of all you need a convenient transport connection. And now the countries of Central Asia are relatively backward in the construction of transport infrastructures. In technology on high-speed railways, China has already reached the world advanced level, which provides an opportunity and conditions for China's cooperation with Central Asian countries in the area of high-speed railways. China will come out with advanced technologies to foreign markets. In this paper, we О проблемах сотрудничества в сфере высокоскоростных железных дорог между КНР и странами ЦА 482 mainly discuss the importance and prospects of high-speed railway cooperation between China and the countries of Central Asia and analyze the emerging problems and risks in the process of cooperation. In addition, it is still advisable to talk about the "Economic belt of the Silk Road" and the "Eurasian Economic Union". Key words: One belt and one way; The economic belt of the Silk Road; Eurasian Economic Union; the countries of Central Asia; high-speed railways in China; conjugation

**SPECIFIC FEATURES OF TRAINING AND FUNCTIONING OF POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ELITE OF KYRGYZSTAN**

Abstract. The article considers the notions of «political and administrative elite», models of effective state administration, as well as types of state services are unfolded in it. The relevance of the theme is linked to the analyses of the foreign practice in preparation and functioning of political administrative elite, which is necessary in the process of formation of the Kyrgyz elite. Current article reveals the main directions of reforming the national (Kyrgyz) state service and state policy in this sphere. It is underlined in the article that the system based on the personal achievements of the state servants should be the base for state service. Key words: political and administrative elite, public service, models of public service, types of the public service, public policy in the sphere of public service, meritocracy.

**COOPERATION OF THE VISHEGRAD GROUP WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON MIGRATION ISSUES**

Abstract. In this article, the author examined the role of the Vishegrad group in the international arena. What is the main reason for the activation and strengthening of the international positions of the organization? Migration crisis and ways to resolve. Illegal migration, social protection of migrants, their integration in society. These directions were included in the activities of the Visegrad Group. The issue of expanding external cooperation with international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Refugee Organization, the League of Arab States and the African Union has served as the impetus for the establishment of this organization as an independent regional organization that is engaged in all relevant issues that are engaged in the international arena. The article also includes a program that emphasizes the activities of the Visegrad Group in the Middle East, for holding extended-format summits. Keywords: Visegrad Group, international organization, cooperation, migration.

**2018 Т1№6**

ROLE AND PLACE OF UKRAINE IN THE USSR: HIGHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AND OVERALL POLITICAL INFLUENCE

Abstract: due to the large-scale crisis that Ukraine is experiencing after the flight of President Viktor Yanukovych in February 2014, the coming to power of political forces that relied on the forged development of relations with the United States and the EU, which began with the geopolitical deco position Ukrainian state with the loss of the Crimea and the armed conflict that broke out in the Donets Basin, Ukraine is closely focused in the political, expert and academic environment. Often, one can hear that Ukraine is a kind of stumbling block in the relationship between Russia and the West, that such a struggle has developed for it, that the opposing parties are even ready to start a new "cold war". There is a clear overestimation of the Ukrainian factor for Russia's relations with the US and the EU. Modern Ukraine has long been not a tidbit for which it should be fought with such fierce fighting. Ukraine, as it is commonly believed, took its positions all the post-Soviet period of its development. The dissolution of the Soviet Union, the dissolution of cooperative economic ties, the weakening of interdependence between the former republics, and the growth of economic problems. We put forward a scientific hypothesis that "the fall of Ukraine" began long before the collapse of the USSR, as evidenced by a number of quantitative indicators of the development of Soviet Ukraine at that time. So, in the conditions of the current crisis in Ukraine, there is often a statement about the ineffective management of this state by its leaders. The authors believe that such a factor began to play its negative role for Ukraine in Soviet times. Key words: Ukrainian SSR, Soviet Ukraine, socio-economic development, political potential.

**UKRANIAN RAILWAYS: THE HOSTAGES OF UKRAINE’S BIG POLICY**

Abstract. The authors consider of the article first of all the economic consequences of the railway passenger communication closure between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, in particular the loss of the market for passenger transportation of Ukraine, the lost profits and advantages from economic cooperation between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. The main arguments of the supporters of closing the passenger transport are also analyzed. The authors use the key methodological method in the research – the method of economic analysis. Despite the repeated change of management, the state of assets of PJSC «Ukrzaliznytsya» continues to deteriorate. This circumstance pulls to the bottom and the entire railway sector, including private carriers. This is clearly visible against the backdrop of other post-Soviet countries. The state of the company is affected by the tax burden (UAH 15 billion by the end of 2016), the social load in the form of unprofitable passenger transportation and the low level of tariffs held by the state. All this limits the financial opportunities to attract investment. At the same time, that allocations to budgets grow from year to year, Укразализница: экономический заложник политических решений на Украине 532 capital investments of the state company, on the contrary, decrease. Underfunding has led to a critical deterioration of infrastructure and rolling stock. A quarter of the trunk lines are operated with an overdue capital repair period, and the wear of traction substations and the contact network is more than 65%. The share of track equipment with the expired service life is 78%. A deplorable situation with rolling stock. Almost all of it has been amortized for a long time, and some machines have already served even two lifespan of the manufacturer - over 60 years. In general, locomotives are worn out more than 90%. No better picture and with the car park. His general state of the country improves the availability of a private park. But not much. Ukraine lags behind in the development of railways from such countries as Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, where in recent years serious steps have been taken to update the rolling stock. In this connection, the cancellation of the railway communication with the country, the passenger transportation to which not only paid off fully but also made a significant profit, looks, in the opinion of the authors, an extremely rash decision that can lead only to economic losses with the complete absence of any sound political logic. Key words: railway communication, Ukraine, Russia, transportation, migration, Ukrzaliznytsya, lobby.

**THE UNION STATE OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA IN 1999–2018: THE GEOPOLITICAL ASPECT**

Abstract. The article considers the geopolitical aspect of the creation and functioning of the Union State of Russia and Belarus. The author draws attention to the main foreign policy reasons that promote the convergence between Minsk and Moscow in the second half of the 1990s. The Union state of Belarus and Russia is an education, the main geopolitical meaning and whose purpose is to renew the reintegration processes in the post-Soviet space. In the third millennium, this space has entered a fragmented and exhausted, prone to internal strife and destructive external influence. The geopolitical potential of the Union State is precisely to reverse this trend in the opposite direction and become the point of growth that will allow us to form our own development and strength center on our own cultural and civilizational basis. This is the main goal of post-Soviet reintegration. Both the Belarusian and the Russian state have a choice: either build their own powerful civilization or be one by one incorporated into other geopolitical subjects. Along with the potential goals and objectives, the analysis of the functioning of the Union State allows us to speak of it as a geopolitical project that fulfills a number of important functions. For Russia, the geopolitical significance of the Union State lies in the fact that, thanks to the latter, the "Baltic-Black Sea-Caspian arc" which is a project of restraining the Russian state, continues to be unobstructed. Only the Republic of Belarus does not allow to close this belt of the "sanitary cordon", which would finally divide Russia and Europe. The need for a Union State as a geopolitical entity is dictated by the fact that by the middle of the second decade of the 21st cen- Постсоветские исследования. Т. 1. № 6 (2018) 539 tury the United States managed to oppose Russia not only with the resource of a new united Europe in the format of the European Union as a center of power in Eurasia managed from Washington, but also a number of former Soviet republics. The most painful blow was struck at the national interests of Russia through Ukraine. The Baltic countries have been NATO members since 2004. Ukraine and Georgia also do not hide their desire to join this military-political bloc. And only problems of infrastructure and territorial nature hamper the realization of these plans. In such a situation, Moscow has no choice but to integrate with Minsk in the closest possible way, ensuring its security on the western borders. The importance for Russia of the geographical location of Belarus is difficult to overestimate. The Western Dvina-Dnieper line is a natural geopolitical barrier that closes the European subcontinent from the east; Its strategic role was manifested in all wars between Russia and European states. The naturalness and regularity of the Belarusian-Russian union is due to the civilizational identity of the two peoples that has been formed over the course of more than one century. Belarusians belong to the "Russian" space and are regarded as a subject of the central Eurasian ethnos, i.e. as "Russians" in the cultural and geopolitical sense. At the same time Belarus, being included in the geopolitical project common with Russia, has retained its external subjectivity, has not repeated the path of the Eastern European states, which have become only a "security belt" between the EU and Russia. Simultaneously, the Belarusian state, continuing to remain the western frontier of Russia, did not dissolve in it. It can be asserted that the Republic of Belarus managed to break away from the dichotomy of Europe-Russia into the global geopolitical space. In addition, Belarus managed to avoid deindustrialization, which is typical for Eastern Europe, thanks to the deepening of its economic production cooperation with Russia. The union with its eastern neighbor ensured the survival of the Belarusian industrial space, and, accordingly, national self-storage in the second half of the 90s and the beginning of the 2000s. And today, being surrounded by deindustrialized countries, Belarus has the opportunity to preserve itself as the industrial leader of the region. Thus, the Union State of Belarus and Russia is a really functioning geopolitical formation, the institutional design of which is not of fundamental importance at the moment. Another thing is important. Given the disassembled state of the Eurasian space after the collapse of the USSR, any project for its reintegration should be, first, mobilization and centralized, and secondly, it cannot be liberal in its essence and ideological orientation. The article further describes the geopolitical situation in the world, which influences the strengthening of cooperation between Belarus and Russia within the framework of the Union State. The conclusion is drawn that the cooperation of the two countries in the field of defense is the most successful direction of the functioning of the Union State. Keywords: Belarus, Russia, the Union State, the West, the Post-Soviet space

**HUMANITARIAN DIMENSION OF RUSSIA AND BELARUS UNION STATE**

Abstract. The article is devoted to the Belarusian-Russian cooperation in the humanitarian sphere. The author focused his attention on the development of this vector of interaction within the framework of the Union State of Belarus and Russia. The starting point for the development of relations was the signing of the Treaty on the formation of the Community of Belarus and Russia. The author notes that the humanitarian direction is the most promising area of cooperation within the framework of the Union State. At the same time, its traditional character is still largely preserved. The parties have accumulated vast experience, which requires a qualitative assessment for developing new innovative approaches and entering a new level of cooperation. The Union State of Russia and Belarus is the closest and deepest integration association in the post-Soviet space, which allows it to be an image for other integration unions. In the sphere of ensuring equal rights of citizens, Belarus and Russia have advanced beyond all states existing in the post-Soviet space. A normative legal framework is being developed that regulates the equality of the rights of our citizens both through the adoption of Union statutory acts and through the conclusion of bilateral treaties. On their basis, realization of the rights of citizens of the two countries for affordable and high-quality education is ensured, diplomas on education, academic degrees and titles are mutually recognized. Nevertheless, there are other problem areas in the humanitarian area of Russian Belarusian integration, one of which is insufficient information support. In particular: the potential of cooperation in the field of education, science and youth policy is still far from being fully realized. Within the framework of the Union State, it is necessary to develop a system of academic mobility, scientific and student exchanges between Russia and Belarus - at present such activity relies primarily on bilateral interuniversity agreements, which are not effective enough to solve the problem formulated by experts. A separate problem in the educational sphere of Russia and Belarus is unified educational standards. In this issue, it is necessary to separate the humanities and natural sciences. In the first case, the subjects and approaches are far and close if they seem possible, then not in the near future. To solve this problem, it is necessary to unify the standards in mathematical, physical disciplines, biology, etc., so today it would be very promising. Special attention within the framework of the Union State, in the opinion of the author, should be given to the problems of the formation of civil society of both countries. This topic often remains behind the brackets of the discussion of humanitarian interaction in the context of integration processes2 . As a theoretical and methodological basis for the study, such methods as comparativehistorical and concrete-historical were used. This allowed the complex analysis of the experience of cooperation between Belarus and Russia in the humanitarian sphere. The problem-chronological method made it possible to trace the evolution and assess the state of development of humanitarian ties within the framework of the Union State. Key words: humanitarian dimension, Belarus, Russia, Union State, regional integration.

**INTEGRATION POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: FROM MULTICULTURALISM TOWARDS SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS. EXPERIENCE FOR CIS**

Annotation: The article elaborates on the integration policy of the EU members and European Union as a whole, demonstrates its transformation and abandoning multiculturalism for rather comprehensive social integration approach. The special emphasis is made on the principles and practices, which can be useful for other regions, particularly for postSoviet countries. Even before the aggravation of the migration crisis in 2015, it became clear that the assimilation of migrants through the model of the "melting pot" is untenable because they cannot be "dissolved" in the host society, whereas the policy of multiculturalism presupposes too much influence of ethnic communities on the main culture. In place of multiculturalism in Europe, the practice of "civil integration" is being gradually introduced, in which migrants are granted a certain level of social and economic rights, while maintaining a balance between their rights and obligations with respect to the receiving community. The cultural aspect of the integration of migrants is one of the most important, because it is precisely in the field of social and cultural differences that lies the root of the problems that the European society has faced in the face of growing migration flows. The need for successful socio-cultural integration of a huge number of people belonging to a community that is far from European culture is becoming a priority, which has become a serious challenge for Europe. However, for migrants themselves, this is no less difficult task, connected with the perception of a new culture, the creation of social ties, the achievement of a certain economic status. The key factor is the religious factor, which causes deep mental differences. Let us also emphasize that the consequences of the terrorist attacks in Paris in January and November 2015 showed that Islamic extremism negatively affects the integration of Muslims. The local population is experiencing growing difficulties in distinguishing between such concepts as "Islamic terrorism", on the one hand, and the "Muslim community" on the other. The fundamental differences between the two cultural communities encountered during integration require a complex approach to solving the emerging problems. Integration of migrants is a multilateral process, combining political, economic, social and cultural aspects. It is about expanding the socialization of migrants in various fields - educational, medical, and economic. Special significance is the cultural and psychological vector of socialization, allowing representatives of nonEuropean society to adapt more quickly to an unusual cultural environment. Gradual inclusion of migrants in the life of the accepting society should lead to a reduction in the level of confrontation of values, including in the field of interconfessional interaction. As a rule, the key factor of socialization is the mastery of the language of the host country, and cultural integration does not provide for the rejection of manifestations of its own cultural identity. It is important to note that the problem of migration is far from new to Europe and the European Commission has paid considerable attention to these issues for a long time. In particular, in 2011, the European program for the integration of third country nationals was adopted, which focuses on the need to start this process from the lowest - local - level, which ensures more successful involvement of migrants in the cultural, co- social and economic life of the society. The program includes language courses, connection of the host society to integration, participation of migrants in public life. Financial support is provided by, among others, the European Integration Fund for Migrants and the European Refugee Fund. "Indirect" methods aimed at the cultural and social integration of migrants are also used: sports events, seminars for migrants, covering a wide range of areas (culture, interfaith communication, employment). The EC issues documents that facilitate the inclusion of migrants in the labor sphere, including as entrepreneurs. Special seminars are held for organizations involved in the labor integration of migrants. Integration of migrants into the host society provides for a set of measures at the panEuropean, state (national) and local levels. In the EU, there is a constant "search for a balance of interests and mutual" bargaining "for the entire range of migration problems. At the same time, state structures play a leading role in developing policies in this area. The article researches the policy in relation to refugees and migrants in a number of EU countries, and also summarizes the experience gained in these countries, which, if necessary, can be successfully applied already in the realities of the CIS. In the course of the research, the author used the method of sociological analysis and the method of comparison. Key words: migrants, integration, multiculturalism, structural integration, social integration, integration policies, EU.

**DIASPORA FACTOR IN ARMENIA’S RELATIONS WITH THE EU AND THE US**

Abstract. About three million ethnic Armenians live in the Republic of Armenia, and abroad - more than seven and a half million (according to the highest estimates - up to 10 million people). The most numerous Armenian community lives in Russia. Back in the early 1990s the Armenian diaspora of the Russian Federation was on the fifteenth place in number in comparison with diasporas of other nationalities. After the collapse of the USSR, the number of Armenians in Russia sharply increased, and they moved to one of the first places. In 2018, Russia has about 2.5 million people. The number of the Armenian diaspora in the far abroad countries exceeds two million people. Today, the largest Armenian colonies exist in the United States (more than 1 million people), France (about 500,000), Iran Фактор диаспоры в отношениях Армении с ЕС и США 568 (180,000), Lebanon (120,000) and Syria (120,000). Armenian communities have their own communities, their own schools, churches and newspapers. But they are characterized by a much higher degree of fragmentation than among the Armenians of Russia and the entire post-Soviet space. This is due to the large differences between the countries of residence, the different degrees of adaptation to the ethno-cultural environment among the "old" and "new" emigrants, the remaining linguistic differences between the Western Armenian and the Eastern Armenian languages. The Armenians are divided and confessional: there are two rival Catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the ArmenianCatholic Church is subordinate to the Pope, and more and more Armenians have recently entered into various sects and new religious associations. Finally, Armenian communities established in Armenia at the beginning of the 20th century continue to operate. and continuing to compete among themselves political parties. The authorities of independent Armenia seek to use the experience of Israel, China and Ireland, which have established effective cooperation with their diasporas and receive considerable political and economic support from them. In the opinion of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the diaspora should associate its identity not only with its past and its national identity, but also with the existence of an independent Armenian state that emerged after the collapse of the USSR. In this article, the author examined the role of the integration policy of Armenia with EU and USA. The policy of Armenian diaspora represented in different parts of the world, including the EU and the USA. During the preparation of the study, the author applied methods of sociological, political and historical analysis. Keywords: Armenia, policy, Diaspora, EU, USA

**TOOLS AND RESOURCES OF RUSSIA'S "SOFT POWER IN THE CIS REGION**

Abstract. The concept of "soft power" was formulated in the late 80s - early 90s of the XX century by American political scientist Joseph S. Nye. It was defined as "the ability to achieve what is desired on the basis of the voluntary participation of the Allies, and not through coercion or handouts." J. Nye believes that this impact can be realized with the help of such components as culture, ideology and foreign policy. Currently, "soft power" is increasingly included in the foreign policy strategies of states in order to create favorable conditions. This has a positive effect on domestic development and promotes the spread of its influence to other countries. In Russia, this concept also has a place to be, albeit different from classical American approaches. The concept of foreign policy of the Russian Federation, approved by the President of the Russian Federation on November 30, 1616, characterizes "soft power" as a tool for solving foreign policy tasks. It is noted that it is based on the capabilities of civil society, information and communication, humanitarian and other methods and technologies that complement traditional diplomatic methods. The leading instrument for implementing the "soft power" of the Russian Federation abroad - in general and in the CIS space - in particular, is Rossotrudnichestvo. It is the Federal Agency for the Affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad, and for International Humanitarian Cooperation. It was established in September 2008 in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1315 of September 6, 2008. This structure is subordinate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and is currently represented in 94 countries by 94 institutions. Of these, 70 Russian centers of science and culture (9 offices of the RCSC) in 61 countries, 24 of the Agency's representatives are in embassies in 22 countries. Priority direction of Rossotrudnichestvo are the CIS countries. The activity of this fed- Постсоветские исследования. Т. 1. № 6 (2018) 576 eral agency and its foreign missions is aimed at the implementation of the state policy of international humanitarian cooperation. It promotes the dissemination abroad of an objective representation of contemporary Russia. In the framework of activities, a system of supporting the Russian language abroad is being implemented. Rossotrudnichestvo actively works in the field of promotion of Russian educational services. The Agency's activities contribute to the expansion of cooperation between schools, universities and institutions of partner countries. Also, one of the main vectors of the Rossotrudnichestvo activity is the co-operation of international development (SMR). It is aimed at supporting sustainable social and economic development of states, solving global and regional problems. This has a positive effect on ensuring stability and security in the system of international relations. Speaking dialectically, the main levers of "soft power" are the culture, values and instruments of the foreign policy of the state. Speaking about business, in these areas, special attention should be paid to such components as native language, business ties, educational policy, development of R & D, and, most importantly, the stable economic situation of the country and the region as a whole. These components most strongly influence both the image of the state in the modern world and the perception of the country by the citizens themselves. Language and innovative technologies serve as the visiting card of the state in the world. Economic stability and quality higher education ensure the safety of citizens and their confidence in the future, as well as make the country attractive for foreign investment. Together, these components allow the realization of economic advantages in the international arena and establish long-term contacts with foreign partners. It should be noted that, despite the direct connection between the image of the state and the business climate, "soft power" cannot be the only tool for regulating interstate relations. Thus, Joseph Nye, already mentioned by us, determined that "soft power" is difficult to measure and rather unpredictable. Although its action has a long character, the result is often delayed for a long time. Moreover, if in one state the negative perception of the other has already developed, the tools of soft power become useless. This can be proved by the current tension in the economic situation between Russia and Ukraine, which is caused by a number of compelling reasons. The main factor aggravating relations between countries is disagreement in energy policy (transit and use of oil and gas). Obviously, with the help of methods of cultural diplomacy alone, it is extremely difficult to reconcile the parties on such a vital issue for the economy. Conflict complicates differences in national interests of states, separatism of individual regions. Public and cultural differences of the sides are aggravated due to the internal political situation in Ukraine and the participation of third parties. The author is convinced that by applying the "soft power" Russia will, in time, weaken the international tension, including. in connection with the Ukrainian crisis. In his work, the author used the following methodology: the method of political analysis, the method of sociological generalization, the method of economic forecasting. Key words: soft power, Russia, CIS, cooperation, culture, economy, business

**DEVELOPMENT STATUS OF THE CIS ARMED FORCES**

Abstract. The article analyzes the current state of the Armed Forces of the CIS countries, taking into account the historical retrospective of their genesis. As the «heirs» of the Soviet Army, today's Armed Forces of the CIS countries have to a large extent the weapons that they received from the USSR. The Baltic countries, which are not part of the CIS, are an exception, because they never recognized themselves as part of the USSR and, accordingly, did not qualify for Soviet armament. Thus, the Baltic Military District went to Russia. He was withdrawn to the Kaliningrad region. The rest of the countries got what was on their territory by the time of the collapse. Most lucky Ukraine and Belarus: at their disposal were powerful districts of the second strategic echelon (the first echelon was located on the territory of the Warsaw Treaty countries). The Transcaucasus district was weaker, because the Turkish direction was not considered the main one. The Central Asian and Turkestan districts were even weaker. In addition, some of the equipment from these districts could be withdrawn by Russia by force, especially in Transcaucasia. There is an army of Transnistria, but as well as in other unrecognized territories, there are no intelligible data here. The Central Asian countries of the technology got a lot, but it is largely obsolete. Relatively strong army turned out only in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan got a lot of unfit weapons, which was taken out of Europe and left on storage bases. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the armies are purely symbolic. As for Russia, in the Soviet era, the counties on its territory had rear, which means that the armed forces are rather weak. However, a significant part of the troops from Eastern Europe was withdrawn to Russia, but this was very chaotic, a considerable part of them was disbanded or abandoned to the mercy of fate. In the Far East and Trans-Baikal, the troops were considered to be the first echelon, but they were weaker than in Europe, since China was regarded as a secondary enemy. In general, Russia received the most of all countries combined, but the percentage of new weapons was rather low. In any case, much lower than that of Ukraine and Belarus. Today, Russia and partly Ukraine and Belarus are able to produce weapons, but only in cooperation with Russia. The Belarusian army demonstrates a sufficiently high fighting efficiency, in which interesting structural reforms were carried out. Armenia pays much attention to its army. And, of course, the Russian army has a certain fighting capacity, and not only at the expense of quantity. The material of the article analyzes the current state of the Armed Forces of the CIS countries taking into account the historical peculiarities of their emergence. The author uses methods of complex and structural analysis, a quantitative method and a comparison method. Key words: CIS, armed forces, weapons, army, military-industrial complex, cooperation.

**POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PORTRAIT OF E.A. SHEVARDNADZE IN MASS MEDIA**

Abstract. E.A. Shevardnadze was one of the most iconic political figures of the era of the decline of the Soviet Union, who later wrote his name in the chronicle of the independent statehood of his historic homeland. Shevardnadze's outstanding role in shaping the new image of the South Caucasus at the turn of the millennia is also undoubtedly a process determined by the strategic alliance of Georgia with Azerbaijan as the leading regional state. Not only historians, but also political scientists, and perhaps even psychologists, have yet to comprehensively and in detail study the political portrait of E. Shevardnadze whose earthly path was committed on July 7, 2014 in his native Tbilisi. Within the framework of this article, we will only try to briefly consider one of the basic human and professional qualities that allowed politics to occupy certain peaks of the political Olympus. This quality is the ability to negotiate and show flexibility according to the circumstances. Eduard Shevardnadze made a phenomenal political career during the Soviet period. Significant stages in his formation as a highranking Communist functionary were works on the posts of the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Komsomol of Georgia and the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia. But he was also an emigrant from the KGB school, whose involvement in it played an important role in the development of Shevardnadze as a politician who possessed not only the qualities of a leader, but also an amazing political calculation, the ability to find a way out of difficult situations in the context of political expediency, flexibility, the ability to successfully integrate into new political realities. These qualities were especially evident in the second half of the 1980s, when Gorbachev's perestroika began, which played a fatal role in the fate of the USSR. In 1972 he headed the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia and in 44 years became the first person in the republic. In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev offered him the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. But already in the 90th from the tribuny of the Fourth Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR Shevardnadze announced his resignation "in protest against the impending dictatorship" and soon left the ranks of the CPSU. After the collapse of the Union, Shevardnadze showed himself worthily in his new career, returning to his native Georgia, where after the overthrow Gamsakhurdia became chairman of the republic's parliament, and then twice - in 1995 and 2000 - the country elected him president. In 2003, during the Rose Revolution, which was held in Georgia against the backdrop of disagreement with the results of the parliamentary elections, Shevardnadze was asked to leave the presidential post. After the refusal of the parliament to support the president's initiative to introduce an emergency situation in the country, the Georgian leader was forced to resign. Thus, during the presidency he was especially remembered by the fact that he left his post in a timely and practically painless manner, which neither his predecessor Gamsakhurdia nor, in principle, most of the world leaders who were in a similar situation could demonstrate. Eduard Shevardnadze is now remembered by many as a policy that could and was able to agree with all. Within the framework of the article, the political and partly - psychological portrait of E. Shevardnadze is briefly considered. Briefly - because studying such a largescale personality is the subject of a much more solid study. Nevertheless, the author tried to point out the most important points that played a key role in the formation of the personality of E.A. Shevardnadze and his political career in particular. The main methods used by the author in the framework of the research are historical and biographical and analytical. Key words: Shevardnadze, Georgia, USSR, politics, diplomacy, psychology.

**THE EVOLUTION OF THE ISLAMIC EXTREMISM IN THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL ASIA**

Abstract. The purpose of this article is to conduct a comprehensive comparative analysis of the religious and political situation prevailing in the countries of Central Asia by the middle of the second decade of the 21st century. Over the years of independent development, the states of Central Asia have collided and face, albeit to varying degrees, with the activities of Islamic radicals, for which the most acceptable methods are the methods of fighting that rely on destabilizing the situation and creating new Muslim regimes. Their activity did not turn Central Asia into a kind of political confrontation between secular and religious models, and the coming to power of Islamists (following the pattern of the "Arab spring") now looks like a poorly probable scenario. Nevertheless, the possibility of merging social and Islamic-colored protest movements cannot be completely ruled out, given the development of the social and economic situation in the poorest and most vulnerable Central Asian countries. Under the negative scenario, Islamic extremists can significantly expand the base of their support. While the dysfunctional internal situation in several Central Asian states is the main factor in the emergence and rooting of local extremists, the external factor plays a big role in fueling them. Financing, training, dissemination of relevant literature, activities of foreign preachers - all this in a complex ensures the existence and a certain attractiveness of extremist ideology among the most disadvantaged and marginalized strata. It is not accidental that after the withdrawal of the coalition troops from Afghanistan, Islamic extremists may be activated there, interested in maintaining ties with their fellow-believers in the Central Asian states. Many international terrorist organizations began to use the CIS countries as a kind of refuge, a territory where money can be ordered, purchased and transported (delivered) to anywhere in the world and in virtually unlimited quantities by all the necessary means of carrying out terrorist activities. One of the factors contributing to the deterioration of the socio-religious situation in the countries of Central Asia is the weak religious studies of most representatives of the legislative and executive branches, including law enforcement officers. If the current situation is maintained, in the future this can have grave consequences, since it provokes some Muslims to accept the ideas of radical Islam and the transition of some citizens to positions of religiously motivated opposition to the existing constitutional system. The article is devoted to the consideration of the religious and political situation prevailing in the states of Central Asia by the middle of the second decade of the 21st century. In many ways, it is on this basis that both the domestic and foreign policies of these countries are based. With the help of analytical and comparative-political methods, the author reveals both the characteristic and general laws that form today the socio-political landscape in this region. Key words: Central Asia, extremism, Islam, society, development, ethnic contradictions

**2018 Т1№7**

**POSSIBLE TERMINOLOGICAL AND CONCEPTUAL AND METHODOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF N.A. BERDYAEV IN POLITICAL SCIENCE THE STUDY OF POST-SOVIET SPACE**

Abstract. The aim of the article is to study the scientific heritage of the Russian political philosopher N.A. Berdyaev. The principles of comparative studies are used as a working methodology. The uniqueness of the works of the pre-revolutionary scientist lies in the originality of his approach in the analysis of typically political phenomena and processes, combined with a rich terminological apparatus. The author comes to the conclusion that Berdyaev's terminology, methodological methods of comparative analysis of ideas of domestic and foreign thinkers, as well as deep conceptual understanding of political, reli- Возможности терминологического и концептуально-методологического наследия Н.А. Бердяева 623 gious and civilizational phenomena can become an important component of modern fundamental political studies of political culture of post-Soviet countries. Such a rethinking will make it possible to make an overdue methodological breakthrough and subject a number of foreign political science theories to serious revision, which take little into account the specifics of the post-Soviet countries and largely have an ideological basis. Meanwhile, Berdyaev himself defined his philosophy as the philosophy of the subject, the philosophy of the spirit, the philosophy of freedom, the philosophy of dualisticpluralistic, creatively-dynamic philosophy. The opposite between spirit and nature, according to Berdyaev, is the main one. The spirit is a subject, creativity, nature is a stillness and passive duration, an object. The main element in this opposition is the subject, to the extent that, according to Berdyaev, the objective world does not exist by itself, but depends on the will of the subject, is the result of the exteriorization of his personal state. Berdyaev did not believe in the strength of the so-called "objective" world, the world of nature and history, there is only the objectification of reality, generated by the well-known trend of the spirit. This does not mean that Berdyaev was a solipsist, argued that the world around us is only a complex of elements created by the subject's imagination. The nature in which necessity reigns and freedom is suppressed, where the personal, the particular absorbed in the universal, was born of evil, sin. Some researchers believe that Berdyaev is one of the founders of the philosophy of existentialism. In his opinion, being is not primary, it is only a characteristic of “existence” - the process of the creative individual life of the spirit. Key words: N. Berdyaev, political science, post-Soviet space, political research, terminology, methodology, concept, politology, smart power.

**ROLE AND PLACE OF UKRAINE IN THE USSR: HIGHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AND OVERALL POLITICAL INFLUENCE**

Abstract. Due to the large-scale crisis that Ukraine is experiencing after the flight of President Viktor Yanukovych in February 2014, the coming to power of political forces that relied on the forged development of relations with the United States and the EU, which began with the geopolitical deco position Ukrainian state with the loss of the Crimea and the armed conflict that broke out in the Donets Basin, Ukraine is closely focused in the political, expert and academic environment. Often, one can hear that Ukraine is a kind of stumbling block in the relationship between Russia and the West, that such a struggle has developed for it, that the opposing parties are even ready to start a new "cold war". There is a clear overestimation of the Ukrainian factor for Russia's relations with the US and the EU. Modern Ukraine has long been not a tidbit for which it should be fought with such fierce fighting. Ukraine, as it is commonly believed, took its positions all the post-Soviet period of its development. The dissolution of the Soviet Union, the dissolution of cooperative economic ties, the weakening of interdependence between the former republics, and the growth of economic problems. We put forward a scientific hypothesis that "the fall of Ukraine" began long before the collapse of the USSR, as evidenced by a number of quantitative indicators of the development of Soviet Ukraine at that time. So, in the conditions of the current crisis in Ukraine, there is often a statement about the ineffective management of this state by its leaders. The authors believe that such a factor began to play its negative role for Ukraine in Soviet times. Key words: Ukrainian SSR, Soviet Ukraine, socio-economic development, political potential.

**THE COVERAGE OF THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS IN GHANA’S DAILY GRAPHIC NEWSPAPER: A CRITICAL EVALUATION**

Abstract. Ghana’s ‘Daily Graphic’ newspaper traces its origins to British colonial rule. Established by the London Daily Mirror Group in 1950, the paper enjoyed the patronage of British colonial officials and substantial support from British banks. In post-colonial Ghana, this umbilical connection to the colonial metropolis is yet to be severed. This explains why the ‘Daily Graphic’ habitually regurgitates the former colonial patron’s media narrative of the Ukrainian conflict, which portrays the new government in Kiev as the victim of foreign-sponsored aggression and ignores the background circumstances that lie at the heart of the crisis. The problem, this paper argues, is therefore not the limited capacity of the ‘Daily Graphic’ to independently cover international event, but rather a dependency syndrome inherent in the history and orientation of the paper. Key words: Ghana, colonialism, Daily Graphic, BBC, CNN, DW, AlJazeera, Royal Gold Coast Gazette, Daily Mirror, (USIA), Russia, Ukraine, Crimea, NATO.

**THEOLOGICAL MEDIACONTENT IN OF GEORGIA AND TURKEY. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

Abstract. Religion has not just become the object of the media, but has also transformed into its substantive basis: many religious events and issues are widely covered in the media; each religious movement has its own website, television channel, radio station or print edition. But at the same time, the element of religion is often ignored by researchers who do not consider it as a component of the media space. Meanwhile, in religious countries this fact is important and affects the functioning of media systems, because if religion is an institutional phenomenon, the principles of behavior and the system of representing the world among the population depend on it. These countries include Georgia and Turkey. And if the influence of religion on the Turkish media is still being studied by Turkish experts themselves, then large-scale studies on this topic still have not been conducted in Georgia. Meanwhile, the issue of confession plays a significant role from the point of view of geopolitics for these states, especially with regard to the Ajara region, where religion has always been of particular importance. The authors researched the essence of the studied issues using the method of structural analysis, systems analysis and a number of methods of historical science. Key words: Georgia, Turkey, religion, conflicts, media

**PERSONALITY OF M.N. SAAKASHVILI AND HIS ROLE IN THE “ROSE REVOLUTION”**

Abstract. After the collapse of the USSR, the socio-economic and political development of Georgia left a significant imprint of the Soviet institutional legacy, which caused a discrepancy between internal administrative boundaries and places of compact residence of ethnic groups; the existence of territories separated in cultural, historical, linguistic, political, economic, transport aspects within a common constitutional space; the presence of the titular nation and the hierarchy of ethnic groups; a kind of management system that included elements of nepotism, the dominance of personal connections in decision-making; disrespect for formal institutions and procedures. Since the collapse of the USSR, in comparison with many other post-Soviet countries, in Georgia there have been significant changes of various kinds. The most significant part of the changes took place after the winner of the first “color revolution” in the CIS space, Mikhail Saakashvili, came to power in Georgia. Having become the President of Georgia in 2003 as a result of the “Rose Revolution”, this man set a goal to turn Georgia into a “civilized country” through rapid and radical reforms. Личность М.Н. Саакашвили и его роль в «революции роз» 675 The main milestones in reforming Georgia were a set of repressive measures to combat corruption and common crime and radical neoliberal economic policies. Such an unusual combination of repression and market liberalism made us talk about a special “Georgian way”. A lot of myths have been created around the reforms in Georgia. According to the ratings of international organizations (the World Bank and others), the rapid rise of Georgia created a serious propaganda trump card for the Government of M. Saakashvili, which it skillfully used. Therefore, in the world, many still consider Georgia to be a “Caucasian tiger”, successfully and rapidly developing, following the example of Singapore or Hong Kong. It is now clear that without a massive external economic infusion created by M.N. Saakashvili's authoritarian regime was unable to exist, and the experiment with reforms, in fact, failed. The analysis of these factors determines the relevance of study of selected the issues using both scientific and political methodology. Keywords: Georgia, revolution, politics, leadership, corruption.

**SPACE POLICY AS ONE OF THE MECHANISMS FOR ENSURING THE STRATEGIC INTERESTS OF RUSSIA**

Abstract. Space exploration initially had a military orientation. And today, the space activities of the leading states of the world, primarily the United States, despite its commercialization, are also subordinate to the achievement of global military-political goals camouflaged to strengthen national security. According to American specialists, space is becoming a branch of the national economy that needs to be protected. Outer space, in their opinion, should be considered as an environment for conducting any operations, if their success and effectiveness will be higher than when carrying out such operations in other environments. Excellence in space is proclaimed as the basis of the national security of the United States in the 21st century. Its achievement is envisaged through the implementation of four strategic principles. First is the control of space. It implies the ability to securely withdraw their funds into outer space and freely operate in it, and, if necessary, to prevent the use of outer space by other countries. The implementation of this provision should be ensured through the use of high-performance and high-live launch vehicles; means of monitoring the situation in space, capable of active actions, including operational interorbital movements; space combat systems for strikes in space and from space. At the same time, great importance is attached to their protection with the help of passive and active means. Secondly, the global use of force. It includes the collection of information about the situation in the world and the possibility of using weapons from space to destroy ground targets. The implementation of this principle is ensured through the use of space observation means that carry out global monitoring of near-Earth space and the earth's surface in any military-political situation with the operational delivery of target indications, means of destruction of ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as high-precision means to destroy ground targets from space. Thirdly, the integration of forces and information. It implies the information integration of space, air, ground and sea forces. At the same time, appropriate training of army and navy personnel (including a tactical link) is envisaged. During the course of combat operations, the operational advantages of space systems should be fully utilized. For this, commanders of all levels must clearly understand the capabilities of space assets. Fourth, global partnership. It means uniting the efforts of civil, commercial, scientific, national and international space systems in order to increase the possibilities of military use of space. The presence of a large number of non-military space systems, which also have high characteristics of onboard equipment, makes it possible to solve individual military tasks, primarily of an information nature, in a cheaper way. The partnership creates favorable conditions for reducing costs and risk. As a rule, cooperation within the country is usually priority, however, the interrelationships between states can also provide unique opportunities for achieving military goals (improving the effectiveness of coalitional hostilities). Can any of the American conceptual provisions be of interest in relation to Russian conditions? Does Russia need to strive to achieve a leading position (in American terminology, superior) in space? Answers to these questions, in our opinionshould be affirmative. I should not forget that we are talking about the problems of the development of astronautics in the XXI century. If we strive in space activities to return to our country a position worthy of a great power, then the goals should be set corresponding to this status. In this article, the author analyzes the space activities of Russia in the context of its importance in the country's foreign policy course, taking into account the global challenges of our time, and also seeks to identify the priorities of Russian cosmic geopolitics at the beginning of the 21st century. Key words. Space, rivalry, cooperation, militarization, financing.

**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN KAZAKHSTAN AND RUSSIA IN THE FIELD OF PACE RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION**

Abstract. Today, the efforts of the countries of the Eurasian Union on cooperation in space exploration are largely focused on the issues of joint use of production capacities and infrastructure of the countries. Of all the countries of the EAEU, Russia and Kazakhstan are the most cooperative in matters of space exploration. The starting point of cooperation between countries in the field of space exploration was the Baikonur cosmodrome, which remained on the territory of Kazakhstan after the collapse of the USSR. However, the majority of enterprises for the production of spacecraft and rockets remained in the territory of Russia and Ukraine. A part of the space infrastructure that made up a whole with Baikonur (communication stations and control center) remained on the territory of Russia. Prospects for cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan in matters of space exploration look optimistic. Continuing the development of joint training programs and enhancing the integration of enterprises help strengthen the position of national space agencies in the international space services market, which means an increase in the number of commercial launches. Attracting new companies to cooperation means an increase in profits from the space industry. This means that if these funds are properly reinvested, the space industry in Russia and Kazakhstan will develop rapidly, which will increase the importance and role of the Eurasian Union in the international arena. This article discusses the main controversial issues in Kazakhstan-Russian relations in the space field, which stand in the way of a comprehensive interaction of states in the field of research and development of outer space for peaceful purposes. In particular, the problem of the environmental safety of the Baikonur cosmodrome was considered. The author also proposed new promising areas of space activities that could expand the sphere of space cooperation and strengthen interstate relations in this area. Keywords. Space, cooperation, Russia, Kazakhstan, Baikonur, research.

**COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN AND RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATIONS**

Abstract. Over the 27 years that have passed since the establishment of bilateral relations, Kazakhstan and Russia have gone through a fruitful way of developing goodneighborly relations through the establishment of partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation. Within the framework of international cooperation, a lot of work is being done in the field of education, which became the subject of research in this article. We will try to track the main trends and analyze their values. Designating a range of problems, it should be noted that the tasks of international cooperation are introduced: - in the preparation of qualified specialists for the country abroad; - in the training of specialists from among foreign students for foreign countries; - in the harmonization of education with the world development directions. The entry of Kazakhstan and Russia into the world educational space confronts both countries with the need to develop a strategic plan for the development of cooperation in the field of higher and postgraduate education. This is due to the transition to a new model of national education systems, which take into account the rich experience and achievements of the Soviet system of higher professional education, as well as global trends in its development. On this occasion, the leaders of two states, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, have repeatedly spoken out. Joint Kazakhstan-Russian fundamental research and applied development were carried out in accordance with the priorities of the scientific and technological development of both countries in the framework of the Kazakhstan-Russian cooperation in science and technology, approved by the protocol of the 5th meeting of the Kazakhstan-Russian Intergovernmental Commission on Cooperation of 15 February 2001. Every year, starting in 2003, the Government of the Russian Federation allocates a quota for citizens of Kazakhstan to study at the expense of the federal budget in higher educational institutions of the Russian Federation and scientific institutions of the RAS system in the specialties and areas of training that are priority for the Kazakhstani economy. According to the Center for Sociological Research of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstani students turned out to be in the first place in terms of the number of foreign students in Russia. In the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Rosstat, they were already 73,455 people. Also, according to the department, the largest number of Kazakhstan students who have received Russian diplomas are employed in technical and medical specialties. Working on this study, the author came to the conclusion that, taking into account the peculiarities and main directions of the Russian-Kazakhstan cooperation in the field of science, this type of cooperation developed quite fruitfully, although with certain shortcomings and omissions. Of all the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, only Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation after the collapse of the USSR retained the scientific potential, which in new historical conditions developed in many priority areas. And one of the important directions was the joint scientific cooperation of universities of Kazakhstan and Russia, which was positively combined with the improvement of higher education in friendly countries, taking into account the use of accumulated experience in the best universities of both the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. Keywords. Russia, Kazakhstan, science, education, innovation, cooperation, CIS.

**MECHANISMS OF ELEMINATING ISLAMIC EXTREMISM IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL ASIA**

Abstract. One of the challenges in Central Asia (Central Asia) at the present time are manifestations of religious extremism. The high significance of studying the phenomenon of religious extremism is related to the fact that it represents a threat to security and stability, the territorial integrity of the state. And also due to the growing number of citizens who left / left to participate in armed conflicts in the Middle and Near East. As the Head of the Department of Central Asia and Kazakhstan at the Institute of CIS Countries, A.V. Grozin notes, the term “extremism” in a broad sense, means adherence to extreme measures. If we transfer this concept to religious ground, then this commitment in the religious sphere to extreme views and actions, which is based on violence, cruelty and aggression. The goal of religious extremism is the incitement of religious hatred and hatred, religious camouflage activities aimed at seizing power, leading to a change in the state system, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Thus, speaking as an extreme form of social destructive action, religious extremism creates a threat to the security of the state, the basis of the stable development of society. The problems of religious extremism in the world are investigated by many scientists, researchers, and experts, but so far there is no consensus on this phenomenon. Its manifestations, types, development prospects, differences in the scale, content, and motivation of manifestations have their own specifics depending on historical, social and economic, political, regional, and other factors. For the successful struggle against extremism, according to the researchers, it is necessary to conceptualize this phenomenon, to develop a methodological basis and methodology for studying its essence. The effectiveness of state decisions in the field of anti-extremist struggle directly depends on this. Islamic extremism as a security threat to the countries of Central Asia is one of the primary problems of our time. Indeed, during the years of independence, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have suffered greatly from the activities of these organizations in their countries and in the whole region of Central Asia. As mentioned above, all existing extremist organizations in Central Asia and beyond cooperate and assist each other, and almost all of them are currently ISIS divisions. Despite the prohibition of their activities in Central Asia, they are still actively functioning to this day. The government of all three republics under consideration had time to pass laws to combat extremism and terrorism. But in the fight against this phenomenon, not only laws and certain instances of state bodies, but a whole complex of interacting measures are effective. In this article we are going to discuss discuss the legal aspects of combating extremism in Central Asia, as well as educational and ideological components to combat this phenomenon and the cooperation of all three republics with international organizations and other countries in the world in the fight against extremism. Key words: Central Asia, extremism, Islam, society, development, law.

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**THE CRITICS OF EURASIANISM AND NEOEURASIANISM**

Abstract. Eurasianism, being one of the largest and most important philosophical, political and ideological projects of the XX century, as well as neo-Eurasianism, which became its logical continuation, attracted the attention of a large number of both supporters and opponents. It is not surprising that ideas like the first Eurasians, nostalgic for your great country and hungry for her revenge in the history of the world and their followers – also wishing the country a speedy recovery from the crisis, criticized both from the share in one way or another, their views, and hot opponents of the Eurasian views. Taking into account the fact that no idea, no scientific direction can effectively develop and improve without criticism, it is worth noting that criticism of both Eurasianism and neoEurasianism contributed to their crystallization and the development of a more coherent and consistent concept. Key words: Eurasianism, neoEurasianism, criticism of Eurasianism, geopolitics, Savitsky, Gumilev, Dugin, Umland.

**IDEOLOGY OF EURASIAN**

Abstract. Russia has developed its own influence strategies in Eurasia and construction of political dialogue with Eurasian partners appears as an important part of it. This strategy is explained in Russian official documents in the framework of the soft power conception. Authors cite recent official documents, adopted by Russian government, confirming the importance of soft power instruments in current Russian foreign policy and setting out practical steps. Authors suggest that Moscow has filled its soft power strategy with a conservative narrative defending traditional values. Current political trends demonstrate that conservatism can become a consolidating value’s platform for Eurasian partners. Key words: soft power, diplomacy of influence, political integration, Eurasian Economic Union, Eurasianism

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF EURASIAN INTEGRATION: MOVEMENT FROM THE “EURASIAN THREE” TO THE CONTINENTAL EURASIAN PARTNERSHIP**

Abstract On May 29, 2019, it will be five years since the signing of the basic document for the development of Eurasian integration - the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union. Over the past period, serious work has been done on the implementation of the main tasks of the EAEU. However, the trends of the world economy are developing so rapidly that they cause the adoption of new additional initiatives, such as, for example, the digital agenda. Moreover, the development of Eurasian integration occurs in a rather aggressive external environment, which is characterized by increased competition in the world market, the crisis created in the WTO liberal model of world trade, attempts to create new preferential regional and transcontinental Free Trade Zones. Развитие евразийской интеграции… 747 From the moment of ideological justification, the Eurasian Economic Union was considered by the founding countries as a new economic union, as a subject of world economic relations and a competitive integration association. In the modern realities, the Eurasian Economic Commission is forced to expand the scope of international cooperation to ensure the business interests of the EAEU member countries in foreign markets. A document that would clearly formulate the EAEU strategy for the formation of the external contour or, as it is also called, the “wide integration contour” has not yet been developed. However, such notions as “Greater Eurasia” and “Great Eurasian partnership” are more often encountered in speeches by statesmen of the EAEU countries and EEC ministers. These terms are understood as a special format of interaction between the EAEU as an integration core and external partners, and both in the West and in the East, as an interaction based on the integrated development of infrastructure - transport, telecommunications and energy. This article discusses the main directions of development of the external circuit of the EAEU through the signing of cooperation agreements with third countries and integration associations, as well as through the formation of Free Trade Zones. The author comes to the conclusion that the format of creating an FTA best suits the interests of the EAEU member countries, expanding export opportunities, making integration amalgamation more resilient to external challenges and in line with the long-term development strategy of the EAEU until 2030. Keywords: Eurasian integration, Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), continental Eurasian partnership

**EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS**

Abstract. The article analyzes the current state of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). The EEU is not viewed as an exception to the general rules of regional economic integration, but as a functioning customs union with its own successes and stumbling blocks. The article examines the state of Eurasian institutions, the single market for goods and services, the state of mutual trade and investment flows between member states, current work to eliminate non-tariff barriers, problems associated with the effective coordination of macroeconomic policies, progress in creating a network of free trade zones of the EEU, common labor market and the dynamics of public opinion regarding Eurasian integration in five member states. Keywords: Eurasian Economic Union, regional integration, customs union, common market, non-tariff barriers, free trade zone, foreign direct investment.

**CIVIL SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATION IN THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION: TRENDS AND PROSPECTS** Abstract. The article in the base of sociological data of the EAEU countries analyses the civil support for Eurasian integration. Talking about the EEU countries, the peak values of support for integration by citizens, recorded by the study in some of them in 2014–2015, were a kind of advance on public trust associated with positive, partly overestimated expectations of the soon positive effects of association. But these expectations have not yet been fully met, including due to the unfavorable external conditions that have impeded the development of the EAEU (world economic crisis, inter-state conflicts in the CIS region, etc.). This is manifested in the gradual decrease in the proportion of citizens who relate to integration positively and the increase in the proportion of those who belong to the EAEU with indifference, and also find it difficult to answer. We believe this is due to the fact that the citizens of the EEU countries are increasingly thinking not so much about the creation and existence of the Union as such, but about the practical significance of economic integration for them personally, how much it affects their competitiveness, family budget, their business, etc. By the way, in most of the countries of the Union (except for Kyrgyzstan), wealthy citizens are more likely to show a positive attitude towards the Union than less well-off ones. One can hardly expect the same high level of public support for integration as in the year of the signing of the Treaty on the EAEU and the accession of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan to it. At the same time, public opinion is influenced by many factors that can change both for the better and for the worse. The information field of the Union countries remains in the foreground, as well as the real economic and political situation in a particular country, directly or indirectly influencing public moods and preferences. Keywords: Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), integration, civil society, support for integration, attraction index.

**NATIONAL INTERESTS OF KYRGYZSTAN IN THE FRAMEWORKS OF EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION**

Abstract. For the Kyrgyz Republic, 2015 was a turning point in its economic development. Kyrgyzstan became a full member of the Eurasian Economic Union. This was a difficult and time-consuming process for the Republic, since it required adaptation to the new economic conditions, with regard to the national interests and development priorities of the country. Joining the EAEU opened up new perspectives for Kyrgyzstan. It allowed to remove barriers to the movement of goods, services, capital and labor. It opened new investment opportunities and prospects for the implementation of large infrastructure projects. Citizens of Kyrgyzstan receive the right to work in any state of the Union under the same conditions as citizens of the state of employment. In general, the accession of Kyrgyzstan to the EAEU is regarded as natural stage in the development of the country and the realization of its national interests, which also gives a new impulse for the development of the Union itself. Keywords: Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), integration, economics, national interests, labour migration, manufacture, potential.

**ESTIMATION OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC EXPORT POTENTIAL AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY IN THE LIGHT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE EEU**

Abstract. Among the most important factors affecting the export promotion policy of the Kyrgyz Republic are the following: the economic potential of the country, the actual structure of the national economy, the level of economic development, the degree of integration into the world economic system. The crucial role in the mutual trade of the Kyrgyz Republic is played by trade relations with the Russian Federation (53.7%) and the Republic of Kazakhstan (44.2% of the total figure). Kyrgyzstan's shipments to the Russian Federation decreased by 12.9%, and to Kazakhstan increased by 17.4%. The positive dynamics of export of Kyrgyzstan in mutual trade was noted in 2015 for the supply of certain types of food products, bakery and tobacco products, dried fruits and vegetables, sales of pharmaceutical products and certain types of footwear increased significantly. According to the data for 2016, the situation in foreign and mutual trade in goods of the Kyrgyz Republic looks as follows. The export volume of goods of the Kyrgyz Republic to the external market compared to 2015 was 105.2%. There was an increase in sales of precious metals by 5.7% (62.8% of the total sales of the Kyrgyz Republic to third countries), mineral products by 1.6 times (8.7%). The volumes of the rates on food products and agricultural raw materials decreased by 32.6% (6.9%). With a general reduction in the volume of mutual trade in the Union as a whole (93.3% compared to 2015), intra-union deliveries of the Kyrgyz Republic public increased by 4.4%. At the same time, the export of goods in mutual trade with Kazakhstan increased by 17.4% due to the growth in the supply of ores of precious metals, fruits and vegetables, and clothing. Kyrgyzstan’s exports to third countries increased (by 5.2%), while the Union as a whole experienced a decline of 17.5%, including Belarus ’by 22.3%, Kazakhstan - by 19.5%, in Russia - by 17.2%. In contrast to the partners in the Union, the growth of imports of goods from non-EAEU countries is 15.3%. In January-May 2017, by the corresponding period of 2016, the volume of export of the Kyrgyz Republic to the EEU member states increased by 25.5%. Volumes of supplies of textiles, textiles and footwear increased by 1.7 times (43.2% of the total exports of the Kyrgyz Republic in mutual trade), food products and agricultural raw materials - by 1.7 times (24.6%), While mineral products registered a decline of 30.1% (19.1%). Thus, it can be stated that according to the results of the trade policy from the entry of the Kyrgyz Republic into the EAEU, there were positive results related to the primary integration effect. Keywords: export, export potential, Kyrgyz Republic, mutual trade, foreign trade, mining industry, light industry, agroindustrial sector, tourism, energy.

**MECHANISM OF REGULAR MEETINGS HEADS OF RUSSIAN AND CHINA GOVERNMENTS AT THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICE OF EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION OF TWO**

Abstract. In the context of modern foreign policy environment, the development of cooperation with China, including in the humanitarian sphere, is becoming for the Russian Federation one of the priorities of international activity. In many ways, the vectors of practical cooperation in this area are determined by the governments of the two countries and get practical implementation within the framework of the established bilateral commissions. This article discusses in detail the role of the mechanism of regular meetings of the heads of government of Russia and China in ensuring the stable and fruitful functioning of the intergovernmental Russian-Chinese Commission on Humanitarian Cooperation, as well as its subcommittee and working group responsible for the joint implementation of key measureы and projects in the field of Education, initiated by the state bodies of Russia and China. The article will be useful for specialists in the field of Russian-Chinese cooperation, representatives of ministries and departments responsible for the development of education, employees of international services of universities of the two countries. Keywords: Russia, China, educational cooperation, academic mobility.

**THE APPROACHES TO DETERMINING THE EFFICIENCY OF PROJECTS OF MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL INTERNATIONAL INTERACTION IN THE EDUCATIONAL AREA ON THE EXAMPLE OF SCO**

Abstract. The article attempts to identify the coordinates of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the global political landscape, considering its willingness to contribute to the development of other international formal and informal structures, subject to thematic interests coinciding and securing the right to moderate the situation within the framework of a self-defined global management puzzle. Using the example of the activities of the SCO, approaches to determining the effectiveness of projects in the field of education carried out by this international organization in the framework of multilateral and bilateral cooperation are considered. Keywords: SCO, Russia, educational cooperation, international organizations, indicators.

**CHOICE OF CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS: RUSSIA OR CHINA**

Abstract. This article is devoted to the analysis of the situation in Central Asia that was emerged after Xi Jinping became the President of the PRC in 2013 and began to pursue an active policy in Central Asia, particularly in the former Soviet republics. The author focused on how the relations between the Central Asian republics (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan), Russia and China changed in 2013- 2017. Through the analysis of the economic, military, social and cultural spheres of interaction, the author found several trends which were emerged in that period. Those trends were analyzed on the example of the relations between the Central Asian republics, Russia and China. This method allows us to find the most important areas of their cooperation, and identify, what instruments can be used by Russia and China to increase and maintain their influence in the region. Keywords: Russia, China, Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, investment, energy, education.