

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** The Russian Federation's foreign policy in the post-Soviet space

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**Relevance of the research issue:** With the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991, Russia's geopolitical space underwent a major change, which led to a serious weakening of its influence in the region. Threats came from different directions, calling into question the sovereign existence of the Russian state, its national security and interests. In this regard, in the mid-1990s Russian government worked out and adopted a new foreign policy strategy of the country, in which the post-Soviet space was recognized as a priority regional direction of the foreign policy of the Russian Federation. Today, the post-Soviet space is a zone of clashes between the national interests of the CIS countries and the EU member states, and the United States and China pursue their goals in this territory. In accordance with the prevailing political situation in the post-Soviet space, the study of all the provisions and issues related to the implementation of Russian national interests in the territory of the former socialist republics is a topical research problem currently.

Moreover, at present national interests play a significant role in systematizing the process of public administration. They are the basis for the carrying out of public policy. For Russia, as for most states, the main foreign policy objectives are to protect and realize national interests in the geographic region where they are located. The states of the post-Soviet space remain a zone of Russia's vital interests for several centuries because relations with neighboring countries always have priority.

**The purpose** of the research consists in the study of Russia's foreign policy in the post-Soviet space, corresponding to the tasks of national security, preserving its sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as strengthening the rule of law and democratic institutions.

**Research objectives:**

- to explore the nature and content of the state's foreign policy;
- to determine tools and mechanisms for shaping the foreign policy of states at the present stage;
- to give a description of Russia's current foreign policy course: the main directions and mechanisms for implementation;
- to explore the significance of the post-Soviet space in the system of Russia's foreign policy interests;
- to analyze the prospects and main directions of Russia's foreign policy towards the former Soviet republics.

**Scientific novelty:** It is established that Russia, within the framework of its trade, economic, natural resource, military, cultural and other interests, creates and carries out certain geostrategic projects aimed at maintaining several formats of cooperation and identifying their priorities, as well as ensuring integration processes in the post-Soviet region. On the basis of EurAsEC, the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan (EAEC) was established. Currently, the Single Economic Space is being formed, the Eurasian Economic Commission has started to work. The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) operates, which ensures regional security and stability. Thus, Russia actively pursues a policy of creating joint platforms with the states of the post-Soviet space, presenting to them various projects of cooperation and development based on their geopolitical, economic and other characteristics.

**Structure:** two chapters: the first includes two paragraphs, the second - three, conclusion, a 122-reference bibliography (thirty of which are in foreign languages: English and Chinese) and two Appendixes. The total volume is 80 pages.

**Summary:** During the consideration of the main aspects of Russia's foreign policy activities in the post-Soviet space, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. One of the most important elements of the foreign policy course of the Russian Federation is the integration component. The post-Soviet space is a vital region for Russia. Since the USSR, there are strong economic ties between the Russian Federation and the former union republics, moreover, the preservation of these countries in the zone of influence of the Russian Federation largely solves the problems of ensuring the country's security.

2. The current foreign policy course of the Russian Federation is characterized by multi-vector and the need to respond to various challenges and threats to security and at the same time effectively promote the interests of Russia both on a regional and global scale.

3. An important direction of Russian policy in the coming years will be the active promotion of the idea of linking the Russian project of the EAEC and the Chinese Economic belt of the Silk Road. In the Russian expert community, the opinion was formed that "Russia's main goal is to make the Chinese Economic belt of the Silk Road a tool for strengthening and improving the EAEC. Moreover to prevent their competition, and in the future - to put the resources of the Chinese Economic belt of the Silk Road in the formation of the economic and political Community of Greater Eurasia." Such a community, on the one hand, can create a counterbalance to the Atlantic powers led by the USA on the other hand, it minimizes the risks of economic absorption of Central Asian countries by China.

4. The ways and forms of Russian influence affected both the domestic and foreign policy aspects of the life of the post-Soviet states. The main direction in the development of interaction between the post-Soviet countries is economic. After the collapse of the USSR, attempts were repeatedly made to organize efficient and

mutually beneficial economic cooperation in the post-Soviet space. New independent countries were interested, first of all, in the formation of a full-fledged free trade zone. The long-awaited Agreement on the Free Trade Area within the CIS came into force only in 2012. However, this Agreement also provides certain exceptions to the export or import of certain goods. It is especially important that the Russian Federation left itself the right to export duty of 30% for natural gas. In general, the functioning of the CIS free trade zone is of low efficiency.

Thus, despite the fact that at the moment the CIS is a rather amorphous geopolitical entity that has a generally very low operational efficiency, the Russian Federation's government continues to use the mechanisms of cooperation within the CIS to achieve the goals of the development of neo-imperial geo-structures. Therefore, the development of multilateral interaction and integration processes in the CIS space is proclaimed as a key area of Russia's foreign policy.

Currently, the CIS has a fairly wide range of tasks, and the Russian foreign policy is officially aimed at "further realizing the potential of the CIS, strengthening it as an influential regional organization, a forum for multilateral political dialogue and a mechanism for multifaceted cooperation in the spheres of economy, humanitarian cooperation, struggle with traditional and new challenges and threats."