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Analysis Of Development Tendencies Of Political Events In The Region

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ABSTRACT

The article discusses the Middle East region and its role in international relations. In the context of the growing complexity and tension of international relations in the region, the most pressing issues of interstate, inter-religious relations have been analyzed.

KEYWORDS

Geopolitics, Foreign Policy, Ideological Conflicts, The Middle East, Sect, Extremism, Energy Resources.

INTRODUCTION

The Middle East region has a special place in the system of international relations, and the region differs sharply from other regions of the world in terms of its national-ethnic, religious, geopolitical, geoeconomic, historical, cultural, spiritual and ideological characteristics.

It should be noted that since the second half of the 20th century, the importance of the region and the intensity of political processes in it has increased. The main reasons for this are the natural and geographical location of the

region, its geopolitical and geoeconomic significance, its richness in energy resources, the fact that it has been a center of ancient cultures and religious conflicts, and the existence of ideological conflicts. Geographically, the Middle East is an important region connecting Europe, Asia and Africa. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Turkey, Britain, France, Germany, and in the 20th century, the United States and the USSR had high interest in the region. [Ch:1.64]. That is, the intersection of the interests of powerful countries, certain

forces, groups, transnational corporations has always existed in the region for centuries. The interests of the hegemonic states prompted them to take control of the region. It is historically known that in ancient times, whether we take Alexander the Great, the Roman Empire or the spread of Islam, the Mongol Empire, the empire of Amir Temur, all had a special interest in the Middle East. It is a historical fact that in the XVIII-XIX centuries Turkey and England, followed by France and Germany, and in the XX century the United States and the USSR also sought their vital interests in the region.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Now we analyze the level of interest of states that have a great influence on the life of the Middle East. "In the past, countries such as Persia and the Ottoman Empire, Portugal, the Netherlands, Germany and the United States have struggled to gain control of the region and made success in their attempts. Russia's policy was aimed at the same goal, although there were obstacles"[2]. One of the most active participants in the regional political process is the continuation of Russia's political ambitions, mainly to continue the policy of the former Soviet Union. Its goal is to undermine the influence of its traditional rivals, the United States and Europe, in the region. It cooperates with the countries of the region in combating these threats so that a certain part of the population believes in Islam and ensuring the security of military bases in Syria for decades, in this case, fighting against terrorism and extremism do not infiltrate its territory. "The Middle East plays an important role in Russia's system of national interests," said Russian scientist VN Panin. "It is in the southern strategic direction that the main external

threats to Russia's national security pose a threat, and Russia must not only respond appropriately, but also identify them in a timely manner and take action. At the same time, despite the change in its geopolitical power, Moscow has a clear basis for strengthening and expanding its influence in the Middle East."[3]

There are also two other important factors in Russia's foreign economic policy, namely the achievement of lucrative deals on arms exports and nuclear energy. This is because further support of the growing arms production complex, restoration of the former USSR's position in arms exports, as well as a strong position in the market of nuclear energy in the face of growing competition are among the priorities of the Russian state.

Now let's talk about Turkey, which has a special status and influence in the Middle East. Turkey, which claims to be the successor to the Ottoman Empire and has historically dominated in the region, now wants to regain its former position. "The Republic of Turkey has become one of the key players in the system of international relations in the 20th century and has acted in the international arena in accordance with its national interests, goals and objectives." Turkey has a great potential in the political arena of the region, which can be seen conditionally in the following cases:

First, the existence of historical experience in governing Arabs and other nations. That is, Turkey was the successor to the last empire that ruled these territories, and was deprived of these opportunities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries due to the processes that took place, including the policies of Britain and

France to take control and colonize these territories.

Second, the Turkish state does not have strategic reserves such as oil and gas, although it covers large areas. As the country's economic development continues to grow, it needs to use these raw materials. However, Turkey's geopolitical potential is extremely high, primarily due to its trade routes connecting Asia and Europe, its direct borders with some strategically important Arab states, and the flow of rivers to the southern states, which play an important role in their economic life. These circumstances allow the country to consider itself one of the leading states in the region.

Thirdly, the expansion of the sphere of political influence is one of Turkey's main goals, and it has great potential in this regard. For example, the Kurdish population in countries such as Iraq, Iran and Syria, their historical ties to Turkey, the development of trade relations in the border areas, and the interconnectedness of the countries in the region.

Fourth, it should be noted that Turkey's foreign policy ambitions are growing as its economy develops. In particular, since the late 20th century, there has been a constant pursuit of regional leadership, with examples of Israel trying to play a key role in resolving the Palestinian problem. Turkey has been active in providing humanitarian aid against Israel's closure of the Gaza Strip and in its efforts to break the blockade.

Fifth, Turkey, like all countries in the world, has been suffering from religious extremism and terrorism in recent years, and the growing religious factor in the country (especially since

the Justice and Development Party came to power) has led the government to fight both religious extremism and moderate Islam, and development issues are becoming increasingly important. This, in turn, requires Turkey to develop cooperation with other countries in the region in the fight against religious extremism and terrorism.

Another important state in the region is the **Islamic Republic of Iran**, where Mahir Khalifa-Zadeh noted that "Persia's many years of experience in foreign policy and its ability to implement its policies is one of the key factors in shaping Iran's foreign policy today"[5]. After the revolution in 1979, there was a sharp turn in the foreign policy of this state. As a result of foreign policy based on religious ideology, the country's sphere of influence is growing. The main reason for this is that a large part of the population of the region believes in the **Shiite** sect, and the ideological center and ideological leaders of this sect are located in Iran. In addition, the growing economic and political position of Iran worries many countries in the region. Saudi Arabia and some other monarchies see Iran as a rival trying to expand its influence in the Middle East. This situation can be observed not only in religious conflicts (Shia and Sunni) but also in geopolitical and economic spheres. In particular, the lifting and easing of sanctions imposed by the United States and Western countries could lead to an improvement in Iran's economic situation, followed by an increase in its geopolitical and military capabilities.

It is also necessary to talk about the growing factor of **Saudi Arabia**, which today has a great influence, financial power in the Middle East. The growing demand for oil in the world energy market has increased the country's

financial and economic power by several tens of times. Saudi Arabia is doing everything possible to further strengthen its position in the region. In particular, relations with the United States have improved in recent years, with leaders intensifying reciprocal visits, spending billions on arms purchases and modernizing their military, and pursuing a foreign policy dominated by extremist ideas (with some countries supporting Islamic fundamentalist forces), it is also emphasized that the country is striving for leadership among Islamic countries. As with traditional competitors, Iran has conflicting interests in various fields to expand its sphere of influence. "After the Islamic Revolution in Iran in February 1979, Iran-Saudi Arabia relations became unstable. Often these situations can be described as worse than better. The influence of Saudi Arabia in the Muslim world stemmed from the constant propaganda activities of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of the Iranian Islamic Revolution. These propaganda included constant efforts to prove that Iran had been declared the Islamic Republic and that it should be the center of the Islamic World" [6]. The ideological rivalry between the two countries is reflected even today in the conflicts that have taken place and are taking place in Syria, Palestine, Bahrain and other countries.

It should be noted that in recent years, **Qatar** has become one of the countries in the region pursuing its own policy, expanding its sphere of influence. This is due to the fact that the country receives huge revenues from oil and gas exports, and its economic potential is growing. The presence of large US military bases in the country, the growing potential and coverage of Al Jazeera in the global information space, the fact that the country

has become one of the most dynamically developing countries in the world, and so on, further strengthen its foreign policy. The fact that Qatar is also playing an active role in the bloody conflicts in Syria and Iraq is not only a solution to the problem, but also a further complication.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Middle East region differs from other regions of the world for centuries with its unique culture, spiritual richness and diversity of religious beliefs. Cultural diversity and the abundance of energy resources, the richness of the financial resources of the countries of the region, further increase its geopolitical importance and attractiveness. The Middle East will continue to be a region rich in social and political processes, in which the interests of powerful countries constantly intersect.

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