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## NORTH CAUCASUS AND NEAR EAST IN THE CONTEXT OF GEOPOLITICAL THREATS AND SAFETY

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The article analyses the scientific analysis of a situation in the South and the North Caucasus, Central Asia, in the regions having special historical, geopolitical and economic value. Such analysis is necessary for development of the adequate mechanism of opposition and blocking of mass recruitment attempts of youth for participation in "jihad" in Syria. The events in the Middle East that are considered as attempt of reformatting of the international and regional economic and political relations take a special place in this research. The importance of active counteraction to forces striving to use ethnic, confessional and cultural diversity of the people of the South of Russia for intervention into the internal affairs of the Russian Federation is emphasized, extending at the same time the ideas of religious and political extremism, ethnic separatism and nationalism. Considering similar threat, the author believes that it is necessary to liquidate what feeds it, namely, to stop financing of terrorists in the Middle East, their support in media and on the Internet. The leading activities of the North Caucasus peoples which firmly adhering to their ethnic features, spiritual and cultural traditions chose a secular way of development within the political and legal state existing. The special place in the research is allocated to the role of Russia in cultural life of modern Syria. The Russian State tries to obtain an achievement of peace between the conflicting parties, conducting resolute fight against the carriers of "religious terrorism" under the slogans of Islam. It is important for all peoples who do not accept fanaticism, "executions of ISIS" and other rules, defending their historical traditions, spiritual and cultural, ethnic and civilization values. The author's reflections about the need of creation of the new world space are given to solve the problems of improvement of people's interaction at the present stage of humanity development successfully.

Key words: the North Caucasus, the Near East, the international and interfaith conflicts, terrorism, the global world conflict, Islamic State, "jihad", opposition in Syria, fanaticism, classical geopolitics.

### **[В.Х. Акаев Северный Кавказ и Ближний восток: в контексте геополитических угроз и обеспечения безопасности]**

В работе уделяется внимание научному анализу ситуации на Южном и Северном Кавказе, Центральной Азии, в регионах, имеющих особое историческое, геополитическое, экономическое значение. Такой анализ необходим для выработки адекватного механизма противостояния и блокирования попыток массовой вербовки молодежи для участия в «джихаде» в Сирии. Особое место в исследовании занимают происходящие на Ближнем Востоке события, которые рассматриваются как попытка переформатирования международных и региональных экономических и политических отношений. Подчеркивается важность активного противодействия силам, стремящимся использовать этническое, конфессиональное и культурное многообразие народов Юга России для вмешательства во внутренние дела Российской Федерации, распространяя при этом идеи религиозно-политического экстремизма, этнического сепаратизма, национализма. Учитывая подобную угрозу, автор полагает, что необходимо ликвидировать то, что ее питает, а именно, остановить финансирование террористов на Ближнем Востоке, их поддержку в СМИ, интернете. Рассматриваются ведущие направления деятельности народов Северного Кавказа, которые твердо придерживаясь своих этнических особенностей, духовно-культурных традиций, избрали светский путь развития в рамках политико-правового бытования государства. Особое место в исследовании отводится роли России в культурной жизни современной Сирии. Российское государство добивается достижения мира между враждующими сторонами, ведя решительную борьбу против носителей «религиозного терроризма» под лозунгами ислама. Это важно для всех народов, которые не приемлют фанатизм, «игиловские казни» и иные порядки, отстаивая свои исторические традиции, духовно-культурные, этнические, цивилизационные ценности. Приводятся размышления автора о необходимости созидания нового пространства мира, с тем, чтобы успешно решать проблемы совершенствования взаимодействия людей на современном этапе развития человечества.

Ключевые слова: Северный Кавказ, Ближний Восток, межнациональные и межконфессиональные конфликты, терроризм, глобальный мировой конфликт, «Исламское государство», «джихад», оппозиция в Сирии, фанатизм, классическая геополитика.

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### **Introduction**

The North Caucasus is a favorable recreational, located between two warm seas, the Black sea and the Caspian sea, and important for the South of Russia edge, connecting the East and the West, the South and the North. Having various climatic zones, and having in the subsoil the diverse minerals especially rich with hydrocarbon feed, this region has got difficult past and, perhaps, will have no less difficult future.

Its climatic conditions, natural wealth, convenient transport communications, oil pipelines make this region a pearl of Russia. Geo-economics and strategic importance of the region demand the large-scale development and the strengthening. Great powers and also the multinational corporations not without justification counting on fabulous benefits, large-scale enrichment are interested in its development.

At the same time between the South and the North Caucasus the policy of gaps and opposition is observed. It sharply became aggravated with coming to the power in Georgia M. Saakashvili who at any cost was trying to obtain inclusion of Georgia into the anti-Russian NATO alliance. Naturally, such position could not but cause serious concerns in Russia uninterested in approaching of NATO to its borders. Rapid opposition between Georgia and Russia in 2008 is an apogee of escalation of the conflict between these states. In modern conditions between them, there is a process of positive economic relationship creation, regulation of political connections though the foreign policy interests of Georgia did not undergo essential transformation.

The mode change in Georgia removed a problem of transformation of the Caucasus into the Big Middle East. Preservation of the friendly modes of the power in the South Caucasus, deepening of territorial, economic, cultural ties of Russia with this region and also with Ukraine, Kazakhstan, counteraction to approach of NATO to its southern borders are the most important features of regional geopolitics and need of safety of Russia. The above-mentioned territories, and the space in general, speaking the language of classical geopolitics, join the heartland, and the loss of control over it is dangerous for Russia. All this demands implementation of a package of measures of ensuring state security of Russia.

In this regard, it is necessary to provide the statement of the famous diplomat Mr. Kissinger made by him even before the Georgian-Russian opposition in 2008 and before "Arab spring" and events in Ukraine. He said that "according the positions of the historical experience, Russia is simply obliged to show much interest in safety in all its extensive territory ... the West should be very careful not to bring closer border of the integrated military block closely to Russia" [8, p. 547].

However, this advice of the wise diplomat was not heard by those to whom it was addressed. Therefore the Georgian troops attack Tskhinvali and suffer a defeat, its foreign policy also did not change today because integration into Euro-Atlantic structures [4] remains a priority of a foreign policy of Tbilisi. The Crimea joins Russia, Donbass is at war, and Syria is

protected, military space forces of Russia bomb terrorists of ISIL (IS). As a result, the world teeters on the brink of the global world conflict.

### ***The Middle Eastern context***

The North Caucasus which is located at distance a little more than 1 thousand km from the Middle East where civilizations, cultures, peoples, languages, religions intertwined, and turbulent processes nowadays actively proceed, obviously suffers powerful "underground" pushes and above-ground actions of "barbarians" of the XXI century. The Caucasus is an external concentric circle of the "big" Middle East and the modern players would like to see it on the world chessboard in this way. It is possible to expect the danger of its involvement into the large conflict processes. In this case, there is a possibility of carrying out peacekeeping operations, with introduction of blue berets, military transport of the UN with the corresponding traffic controllers.

The current events in the Middle East cast a black shadow on the North Caucasus. These events are interwoven into the world context which is conceptually outlined by the president George Bush Jr. when he defined foreign policy of the state as "global hegemony and fight against terrorism" [1, p. 182]. Thus, the USA undertook the right to counteract threats by drawing preventive military strikes, without having the respective international mandate. The events which are nowadays taking place in the Middle East are necessary to consider as reformatting of the international and regional economic and political relations, an attempt of redrawing not only the map of the region, but also of the whole world.

The events in the Middle East connected with activity of IS as Z. Brzezinski notes are result of strategic reflections of the USA, and we will add and the result of the corresponding actions directed to repartition of the Middle East. In this regard, he says that the USA through democracy and the force usage made an attempt to establish a new order. According to him: "Military intervention to Iraq was a part of the big project, uncertain conceptually and unreasonable historically. Its creators absolutely ignored the fact that we thoughtlessly rush to the region where still with bitterness and anger, the British colonialism is remembered. It is natural that we are considered new colonialists at once". [2, p. 37]

The people of the Middle East, many political and religious figures, really do not accept the USA policy in their countries because both external authors and their own governments, resisting to their forces are plunged into chaos and terrorism.

In this regard, E.M. Primakov's statement is remarkable: "The radical question consists in the following: whether the United States which have failed with policy of occupation of Iraq will help to bring the country out of a terrorist chasm. The answer to this question hangs in mid-air" [13, p. 341]. The USA with maniacal persistence pursued the aim of overthrowing of the existing mode in Syria for this "they have used discontent of the Syrian population with lack of democratic reforms in the country" [13, p. 383]. The American media express opinion that the State Department of the USA secretly carries out financing of the Syrian political opposition. Such policy has led to the fact that in a number of the cities of Syria there was a destabilization of a situation, there was an armed opposition, not only peace protesters, but also the armed groups of people showing resistance to the police and the army. Attempts of the Syrian army to neutralize insurgents have led to big blood. E. Primakov predicted: "Everything combined will affect the fate of the mode existing in Syria" [13, p. 384].

The transfer of "Arab spring" for Syria has not achieved rapid and necessary results for the organizers, Assad with his army were more prepared, than Ben Ali, Mubarak, Abdul-Aziz, Gaddafi... In a deadly fight with the enemies, he has reached till today, and the Russian military aid has appeared in time. Military strikes against bases, manpower, the equipment, strengthenings, weapon production facilities, oil tanks of terrorists are struck.

### ***Islamic State as a postmodern project***

According to the experts Islamic State was the anti-Islamic project created for the purpose of changing of a political, territorial, economic, and in general, geopolitical situation in

the Middle East which was financed by the USA. The former head of the Republic of Dagestan Ramazan Abdulatipov said that the modern world has dictated to us new real threat, ISIL, which is the project of the USA as well as Bin Laden. According to him, they are created "to discredit Islam and to weaken the influence of the Islamic world. And any fanatic idiots have pecked. And ... they try in their ignorance" [15].

The criminal activity of Islamic State in the Middle East was outright demonstration of cruel threat concerning Muslims, Christians and all civilized world. Its geopolitical claims to create "the world caliphate" deprive of sovereign development of the people and the states of the Middle East because they can be absorbed by the theocratic education which is the global project having postmodern properties. Meanwhile, Islamic State also offers such prospect to the countries of Central Asia and the South Caucasus where the retraction of the North Caucasus is planned. In this regard, the eventual threat proceeding from terrorists of Islamic State for Russia is also obvious. Especially the leaders of this organization do not hide their aggressive essence, stating threats to Russia, the Chechen Republic and their heads.

The cruelty, violence, destruction of the monuments which have remained from ancient civilizations, and remained in Syria, Iraq, shown by Islamic State are clear certificates that this quasi-public education poses in itself a large-scale threat for the all civilized world. The Syrian army within four years resisting to it has fallen into a difficult situation, without achieving essential results in its destruction. Islamic State, extending territorially, began to control broad lands, the territory with an area of 90 thousand square kilometers with the population more than 8 million people. The square of this territory is more than six times than the territory of Chechen Republic, and human resources surpass seven times. The threats of Islamic State quite often has advertizing character, but the danger that it, possessing considerable resources, can organize terrorist attacks in Central Asia, in the North Caucasus and in the Volga region was quite real.

With assistance of the USA, Saudi Arabia so-called rebels battle against al-Assad's army for the purpose of its overthrowing, accusing it of tyranny and application against civilians of chemical weapon. As soon as the Islamic State would be succeeded to win against the Syrian army, to overthrow Bashar al-Assad, undoubtedly its actions would be reoriented to the North, the countries of Central Asia and Russia. The certain forces wishing to change a political situation in the Middle East, Central Asia and in Russia are quite interested in this strategy. Undoubtedly, such turn of events assumed the restraint of the aggressor, drawing preventive crushing blows on this aggressor.

The opinion that the Islamic State is capable to start the international and interfaith conflicts in the North Caucasus is expressed. Similar judgments with a big share of a stretch should be considered adequate and realized. Most likely, they are the horror stories started by journalists, certain scientists and experts.

As a part of young people from the North Caucasus gets to Syria, the Governor of Chechen Republic, R.A. Kadyrov mobilizes authorities, clergy and the public for suppression of their departure to the Middle East. The head of the Republic of Dagestan R. Abdulatipov considers necessary not to allow "to give to young people to go to Syria or Iraq easily and freely". Moreover he suggests "to give serious repulse to the promotion of ISIL" and "the work of muftiate, imams, sheikhs, alims, law enforcement agencies, local government, the ministries, departments, public organizations" has to be aimed at this" [15]. In the Valdai speech, V.V. Putin announced the threats proceeding from terrorists and about the need of the organization of fight against them. In this regard, an important task for the power and society in the North Caucasus is to prevent the departure to the Middle East of any young man from the North Caucasus.

Has Islamic State got the corresponding potential for destabilization of the international and interfaith relations in the North Caucasus? Such question was raised at the meeting of "Grozny" club, which has taken place in National library of the Chechen Republic. Some ex-

perts allowed such opportunity though, from our point of view, they were sharply limited in their statements.

Quite often, the external influences change an internal political, international and inter-faith situation in this or that state. Especially, if the independent, sovereign state has weakened, then the world powers are against it pursuing their strategic and geopolitical interests. There are a lot of such examples in the world. So, Yugoslavia as the sovereign multinational and multi-religious state has broken up focused on the inner national hatred between Yugoslavs and Croats, Catholics and Orthodox Christians, Muslims and Orthodox Christians. External actors the USA and Europe have influenced on the implementation of this disintegration significantly.

These actors managed to disintegrate Yugoslavia located in the Balkans, having broken it into separate territories: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo. Since the disintegration of socialist Yugoslavia more than 20 years have passed. However, till nowadays discussions concerning such bloody Yugoslavian "divorce" don't cease. Refugees from Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo cannot find definite answer to the question: who is guilty that they have lost their homeland, their shelter and property, and the right to know the truth about the true reasons of tragedies of the 90th years? The war criminals of the international conflicts haven't been still punished, and tens of thousands of former Yugoslavs wander in search of a better life [12]. The Libyan Jamahiriya has ceased to exist as a unified state. It was divided into the territories controlled by different tribal structures. And the part of its territory is captured by groups of Islamic State. As A. Mezyaev notes: "There are five competing "governments" in Libya now, but none of them could stop general violence and establish control over the situation" [11]. For these six years, Libya has completely ceased to exist as the state on the political map of the world. Unfortunately, those processes which have been started by the western partners in Libya after the mode change have been still plunging the country actually into the bloody chaos [7] established by NATO, having made military aggression in 2011 [10].

The Russian-Ukrainian relationships were under the impact of external influence. Ukraine was oriented to Europe. The billion investments on the development of democracy in this country carried out by the USA, the internal conflict between the East of the country and Kiev officials, the revival of the Banderites are the consequence of the new geopolitical development of the region. This organized in Ukraine bacchanalia is directed to release this country from economic and political influence of Russia. In this regard we would like to remember Z. Brzezinski's statement that "Russia will stop being the Eurasian empire without Ukraine" [3, p. 61], and "the empire without Ukraine, eventually, will mean that Russia will become a state more "Asian" and farther from Europe" [3, p. 137]. Such approach is aimed to remove Russia from Europe and not to let the country became the full partner in the modern international relations.

The ideas introduced by Z. Brzezinski, today, when the relationship between Russia and Ukraine has sharply worsened, get new shades and meanings. The opponents of the unity of Russia and Ukraine managed to quarrel them, they have seeded the hostility seeds, which are nowadays giving not the best shoots. And the Ukraine insurrection isn't the choice of the Ukrainian people in any way. V.V. Putin at the 12th meeting of the Valdai club in Sochi emphasized that he accepts any choice of Ukraine. He said: "this is a really brotherly country for us, these are fraternal people, I do not do a difference between Russians and Ukrainians at all". He claimed that he is against violent change of the power when billions are openly spent for the support of internal opposition [17].

The change of the power and revolutions happen, when the corresponding conditions are created. From our point of view, any conditions for such turn of events nowadays in Russia and in its regions can't be developed and shouldn't be provided to anyone. Only the inter-

nal enemies of the state wish such turn of events that they can be implemented at the existence of the weak power and the support of external forces.

### ***From geopolitical compression to expansion***

The transformation of the South of Russia into the active zone of rivalry of world and regional powers is accompanied with the Caspian oil. Today there is an individual share of foreign campaigns in development of offshore fields of oil, definition of routes of transportation of hydrocarbonic raw materials (multinational corporations actively direct them bypassing Russia). Large international projects of development of hydrocarbonic stocks of the Caspian Sea are developed and implemented. Meanwhile it leads to restriction of economic and political influence of Russia on the Transcaucasian countries, the Middle East, insufficient attention is paid to its opportunities, replacement from the vital geopolitical space.

The North Caucasus is favorably located in the geopolitical relation. It is the peculiar outpost of Russia allows providing its protection and keeping international unity. The sure strategy of Russia at the southern boundaries is necessary for maintaining stability of South Caucasus, the Middle East and Central Asia [6, p. 134].

It is obvious that Russia has serious strategic interests in Syria, and it would be extremely inexpedient not to defend them. At the same time, Russia began to render military aid to Syria at the request of the President B. Assad. Thereby it has received the international mandate allowing it to help the legitimate government. However, the USA and the coalition organized by them do not possess such mandate though they have been bombing the territory of Syria for a year without any results. And military freights in volume to 200 tons (weapon, shells, regimentals, medicines, etc.) are dumped to some terrorists, called opposition.

It is also the policy of double standards, which is widely applied in foreign policy of the USA. As the president V.V. Putin notes: "In my opinion, rendering military support to illegitimate structures doesn't answer the principles of modern international law and the Charter of the United Nations. We support exclusively legal government structures" [14]. The Russian President Vladimir Putin on the 27st of September, 2015, on the eve of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly did an interview to the American journalist Charlie Rous for CBS and PBS TV channels: "As for our, as you have told, presence in Syria, it is expressed in arms supplies to the Syrian government, in training of personnel, in humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people today". He also emphasized that there is only one usual legitimate army in Syria. "This is the army of the president of Syria, Assad".

Barack Obama, speaking about a situation in Syria at the National University of defense in Washington, said that the White House next few hours would announce the decision to send to Syria about 30 fighters of special troops as military advisers. But the military personnel won't take part in fighting as their tasks include consultation and training of the Syrians who are at war with the extremist organization IS. Americans also plan the placement of their fighter planes in the Turkish airfields.

It is known that since September 2014 the USA as a part of the international coalition has been striking air strikes to Islamic State terrorists and other terrorist groups in Syria. However Americans strike blows selectively, they are not capable "to serve Assad's interests, and don't interfere in military operations which the army of Syria conducts against hit men [16]. This is the Modern policy of the USA, as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov said it on the 14th of August this year, speaking at a press conference after negotiations with the Turkish colleague Mevlüt Cha-vushoglu about inability of the USA to divide terrorists and normal opposition in Syria [5].

As the specialist of the Middle East M. Magid notes: "Due to the weakening of a role of the USA in the Middle East the political vacuum was a result in the region which Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Russia have tried to fill" [9]. It has led to aggravation of opposition of the parties. The Turkish troops have invaded to the North of Iraq. Such situation in the region hardens disputes between the regional states.

The problem is that the United States of America are not supporters of B. Assad and of his army battling against terrorists of IS. However, it is obvious that the military operation of Russia in Syria will lead to the change of the American position on the Syrian question. Russia not only changes a geopolitical configuration of the Middle East, but, perhaps, will significantly change all international policy in this region.

### **Conclusion**

In modern conditions, the exact, thorough expert analysis of a situation in the South and in the North Caucasus, in Central Asia, in the regions having special historical, geopolitical, economic value where the interests of the world countries are crossed is important. Such analysis is necessary for development of the adequate mechanism of opposition and blocking of attempts of mass recruitment of youth for participation in "jihad" in Syria. In our opinion, it is necessary to teach Muslim youth that participation in fratricidal war of Muslims in Syria cannot be considered "jihad".

It is very important to counteract actively forces seeking to use ethnic, confessional and cultural diversity of the people of the South of Russia for intervention in internal affairs of the Russian Federation, extending at the same time the ideas of religious political extremism, ethnic separatism, nationalism and "jihadism". Such situation is quite expected at long continuation of operation in Syria.

Considering similar threat, we believe that it is necessary to liquidate the thing that feeds it, namely to stop financing of terrorists in the Middle East, their support in media and on the Internet.

The North Caucasus is an integral part of the Russian state, its people, firmly adhering to the ethnic features, spiritual and cultural traditions have chosen a secular way of development within political and legal existing of the state. Therefore, the Muslim people of the region are the resolute opponents of fanaticism, extremism and terrorism shown by Islamic State and its owners. Russia protects national and strategic interests in Syria and it does not oppose Muslims. At the same time, the Russian State tries to obtain an achievement of peace between the conflicting parties, conducting resolute fight against carriers of "religious terrorism" under the slogans of Islam. It is important for all people who do not accept fanaticism, "executions of ISIS" and other rules, defending the historical traditions, spiritual and cultural, ethnic ceremonies, civilization values, carrying out the activity in the modern world.

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