

In this Issue

In the global conditions of growing challenges of integration processes and world order, there was a sharp decline in the level of Russian governance and manageability of international relations. The previous mechanisms of international security turned out to be ineffective, regional and partly global, so regional instability increased sharply. This, in particular, led to the fact that national security turned out to be closely linked with international security. The international dimension of national security, which was never disputed by anyone before, has increased many times. From now on, any state can feel relatively safe only in the conditions of strengthening international law and world order that meets the interests of all countries of the world community. The consequences of European integration of post-Soviet countries for ensuring national security have encountered new risks and have turned out to be very contradictory. They create both new, previously unseen opportunities for the development and prosperity of various countries, and new, extremely dangerous challenges and threats. For Armenia, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, which for objective reasons maintain the continuity of not only their regional, but also European interests, all these aspects are especially important and relevant.

European integration and democratization of the modern world irreversibly changes the hierarchy of the main actors of national security. Democratization of the political systems of the Eastern Partnership countries and their external environment, albeit inconsistently and contradictorily, does not allow anyone to trample democratic norms with impunity, ignore human interests and rights. The greatest attention is drawn to the search of Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine for their national identity, definition of a national development strategy, as well as attitudes towards the very contradictory processes of globalization taking place in the world.

In ‘Transformation of Modern Wars in the South Caucasus: Azerbaijan’s Hybrid War Against Artsakh’, Ruben Elamiryan analyzes the factors of the war in Nagorno-Karabakh 2020 from the point of view of hybrid technologies that led to ethnic cleansing and depatriation of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh. The author analyzes the situation of post-war Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, which was hybridized by Azerbaijan, thereby practically violating international humanitarian law and covering up all these crimes against humanity by Russian peacekeepers. According to the author, the military-political leadership of Azerbaijan is responsible for the ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh, which, unfortunately, was not condemned by Russia and the CSTO, and was not prevented by Russian peacekeepers. The author notes that there is still time for the UN, EU, Council of Europe and OSCE to prevent the forced displacement of ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh from becoming irreversible, to protect the security and right to life of ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as those who were abducted and illegally held in Azerbaijani prisons.

In his article ‘Second Karabakh War and the dynamics of relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation’, Marut Vardazaryan analyzes Russian-Armenian relations in the CIS geopolitical space, where the interests of world centers of power collide, a struggle for political influence unfolds, as well as access to

sources of energy and other natural resources. According to the author, a significant circumstance complicating the interaction of post-war Armenia and Russia, as well as with other CIS countries, is the presence of a military threat from Azerbaijan and external risk factors of instability, which are intensifying with the opposition of the USA and the West to Russia in the context of increasing rivalry among them. The author argues that the nature of the geopolitical situation in the South Caucasus and its development at this stage are distinguished by dynamism, the preservation of hotbeds of armed conflict and military-political tension here after the Second Karabakh War, the clash of a number of interstate and interethnic interests in this region, the unstable and contradictory nature of the formation between Armenia and Azerbaijan with ongoing rivalry and struggle at the interethnic, regional and global levels for the redistribution of spheres of influence and control over the strategic transport communications of the region.

In 'Self-exclusion as a security strategy of small states, Narek Galstyan analyzes the security factors of small states and their further institutionalization. The author examines the situation when, as international relations develop and become more democratized, countries of the world, including great powers, are forced to act guided not only by considerations of the balance of power and narrow national interests, but also by international legal norms that affirm the equality of large or small sovereign states. Modern small states have more opportunities than ever to rely on the norms of international law. On the other hand, the process of globalization presents new challenges for small states, which risk being marginalized as a result of the restructuring of world economic relations. The deepening processes of the formation of supranational institutions and norms of international law, the strengthening of the role and importance of CSOs and non-state actors present new opportunities and new challenges for small states.

In the article 'The Image of the US Army in American movies: The Soft Power of American Cinema', Yuliana Melkumyan, Nvard Melkonyan and Sofi Javadyan examine the influence of American cinema on the world, more numerous and diverse, as the process of creating a global mass culture based on American ideals with the help of popular Hollywood cinema. Moreover, in order to understand the origins of this process, the authors examine and analyze in detail the image of the US Army in American films. Summarizing American historiography, the authors conclude that although the general research base in the field of mass culture has been studied enough, it is still of interest to researchers from different parts of the world, since the phenomenon of Americanization has already managed to cover the entire world. One of the main spheres of mass culture is American cinema, through which the whole world learns how people live, what they think, what they use and what is happening in the United States of America. Hollywood is one of the key mechanisms for forming the image of the US Army, but also for promoting American public diplomacy and soft power. In this sense, American cinema is the most popular type of mass culture in the international community, which has penetrated into the most remote corners of the planet.

In 'International political orientation of Armenia in terms of neoclassical realism: Neoclassical realism and Armenia's international orientation', Dachi Korinteli focuses

on the study of the interaction between the international system and the internal dynamics of the Armenian state. The author argues his approach with the fact that it is important to overcome the shortcomings of neorealism, since neoclassical realism tries to create verifiable models for explaining Armenia's foreign policy strategy and international political orientation. In this context, the Armenian state acts as a kind of set of intermediate variables, which includes various errors in the retransmission of impulses of the international system into a foreign policy response based on a complex process of internal interpretation of this impulse by the state and various actors. Unlike neorealism, neoclassical realism claims to be a comprehensive research approach that allows us to explain the reasons why Armenia reacts to its international environment in completely different ways. Neoclassical realism sees its mission in constructing, first of all, a theory of foreign policy, rather than a theory of the system within which Armenia and other South Caucasus states interact.

In the article 'Strategic prospects for using international experience of foreign investment in Armenia: How effective is regulation of attracting investors for economic growth?', Gohar Ghambaryan, Vardan Mkhitarian, and Anzhela Ayriyants offer a new perspective on solutions for developing trade and economic cooperation between Armenia and various countries. In the context of post-war Armenia, managing the complex nature of international investment, the specifics of regulating direct and indirect foreign investment, as well as the processes that lead to an increase in their volumes in the national economy, should become an integral part of the public policy of Armenia. The globalization of the world economy has created an urgent need for serious transformations in the Armenian economy, the dynamics of which are largely determined by the rate of economic growth, and the latter can only be ensured under conditions of an active influx of foreign investment into the Armenian economy.

In 'Dimensions of the shadow reforms of Yuri Andropov's bureaucratic management: lessons from the myths of the totalitarian leadership of the USSR', Gevorg Harutyunyan focuses on the study of the historical development of public administration reforms and, especially, in the context of the ongoing large-scale anti-corruption campaign, the study of the party and government activities of Yuri Andropov, whose name is associated with decisive attempts to combat violations of Soviet legality and bribery. According to the author, it was Andropov's personal qualities and his inherent conservatism that allowed him to radically change his fate in a totalitarian environment. In a relatively short period of time, he not only restored his lost authority among the party and state elite, but also made a political career. The results of Andropov's domestic policy were quite contradictory. His reforms were mainly limited to establishing discipline and order in all spheres of society and were in fact limited to this. As a result, they produced temporary and rather modest results. On the one hand, discipline in the party and the state apparatus was strengthened in a short period of time. Some crisis tendencies in the economy were stopped, and a rise in labor productivity was observed in a number of sectors of the national economy. But all these measures produced only temporary results and were unable to fundamentally change the economic and political situation of the USSR.

This volume of the journal includes three book reviews on the crises of European integration, the war against Ukraine and the EU, as well as polarization, shifting

borders and fluid governance in the OSCE region. The modern world political process in its essential content is presented as a confrontation of various political forces on issues of world order, the current and future world order, the Russian war against Ukraine and the EU, causing crises of European integration. The problem of world order is the problem of strengthening international law and world order, linking economic and political interests of various countries of the world, as well as preventing threats to human civilization as a result of the growth of global problems of our time. The current political confrontation over the world order is the main content of the current stage of the broad historical process. This process of political polarization and shifting boundaries, the use of which allows us to approach the historical process from the side of changes occurring in the sphere of world order. Such changes are due to the diversity of forms of government, differences in the levels of development of states, and the clash of interests of leading countries in the OSCE region.

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