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## **THE ROLE OF THINK TANKS IN MODERN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Introduction.** Due to the rapid growth of think tanks in different parts of the world, their influence on world politics is also increasing. They focus scholars' attention upon the international issues in order to study the most important political, social, economic issues, as well as to present their ideas and recommendations to government agencies and international organizations, promote international dialogue

in finding solutions to the most pressing issues the world community is currently facing. The reputation and effectiveness of expert analytical organizations depend on their ability to ensure professional honesty and objectivity. The effectiveness of their work is also enhanced by the purposeful promotion of their research results, publicizing relevant and popular issues, high-profile conferences and seminars with leading experts and politicians to be involved, innovation on the Internet and social networks.

**Review of recent publications.** Such scholars as J. McGann, K. Weaver, D.E. Abelson have studied the state of information and analytical activity in their works. In their papers J. McGann and K. Weaver have considered the typology of US think tanks. Their works reveal the functioning peculiarities of analytical centers in Western society, provide their classification and identify their main characteristics. In this piece of research some conclusions and analytics are made with the help of think tanks world ranking — *Global Go to Think Tank Index Report* [3]. In recent years, in Ukraine there have also been published a significant amount of works on think tanks that study socially relevant issues. Among the authors worth mentioning one could single out V. Biletsky, V. Granovsky, S. Datsyuk, E. Kovalishin, M. Kostyuk, V. Chaly, V. Chernov, and others. Their research works reveal the origin, existence, activities, and problems of these institutions.

**The objective of the paper** is to analyze the think tanks role and activities in the USA and EU countries in terms of international relations.

**Results of the research.** Working on the topical issues of domestic and foreign policy, think tanks are increasingly inclined to form coalitions with other organizations to study a particular problem. Of crucial importance are the results of the institutions activities with different ideological orientations. Certain projects involve the interaction of think tanks, as it avoids duplication of process and results. As think tanks pursue mainly research, consulting and other goals, and the main consumers of their products are representatives of the political and economic elite, today there are several cities where think tanks appear to be the largest.

In the UK, it is London that may definitely be observed. According to the relevant data, 90% of British think tanks are in the government quarter. More than half of the think tanks in the United States have their headquarters or offices in Washington. In Germany, Bonn focuses mainly on domestic policy institutions, and in Berlin – on foreign and security policy institutions. From the second half of the 1990-s, Hamburg, Munich, Kiel, and the region of North Rhine-Westphalia became new centers of think tanks. This location of non-governmental organizations is objectively determined.

In large cities, especially in the capitals, there are media, party centers, bodies of various unions, headquarters of «grass-roots» organizations, major research institutions, universities. Thought factories use traditionally established channels that provide them with opportunities to participate in the political decision-making process. Their employees can speak at meetings of government commissions. Some think tank specialists work at government agencies. In the article published in «International Affairs» Donald E. Abelson focused on the evolution and

transformation of think tanks for foreign affairs in North America and Europe, especially those dealing with foreign and defense policy issues. He pointed out that due to methodological obstacles, it is difficult to determine the influence of think tanks but added that «directors of think-tanks remain convinced that their institutes wield enormous influence» [4]. He puts emphasis on the need for a method for capturing meaningful data on the subject.

The main target groups of think tanks in both the United States and Europe are research institutes and universities, members of the parliament, political parties, and ministerial staff. Fewer customers are among entrepreneurs, trade unions and other non-governmental organizations. It can be argued that the emergence of non-governmental organizations such as think tanks in developed democracies has helped to increase and strengthen the links between the scientific, political, and social circles of society. Non-government funding and academic standards of activity in the first half of the twentieth century led to a high professional level of their research and the emergence of regular customers.

The gradual increase in the number of ideological think tanks observed during the Cold War, on the one hand, prompted them to diversify the forms of their products, which became, along with applied research, analytical references, consulting services, participation in multi-purpose projects (in cooperation with parties). On the other hand, the quantitative increase in organizations and the growth in demand for their products has eroded their authority as independent, non-partisan institutions focused on achieving the goals of society democratization [1].

In recent decades, the activities of think tanks have suffered significant changes. The most important are the transformation of most of them into consulting centers with a highly specialized, operational information database, the struggle for the target groups of selling their products. As a result, the politicization of professional information provided by these institutions is intensifying. Changes in the modern international environment and, consequently, in domestic political processes cause the need for improvement, transformation, and possibly narrowing the activities of think tanks. The historical experience of these non-governmental organizations provides an opportunity to improve them as competitive centers of scientific, politically sound internal and foreign policy information [5].

The usefulness of modern think tanks for politicians is manifested in five main areas. Their strongest influence (according to the name itself) is to develop a "new way of thinking" that changes the worldview of politicians. It is not easy, however, to attract the attention of busy politicians, already overloaded with information. To do this, think tanks need to use numerous channels and marketing strategies – to publish articles, books, and special reports, appear regularly on television, in newspaper comments and interviews, prepare easy-to-read references, summaries and pages on the Internet. It is not overloaded with official positions of think tanks analysts who can afford to give a candid assessment of acute global problems and the effectiveness of the government's response to them [2].

**Conclusion.** Nowadays, think tanks are active actors in the political decision-making process. Their participation in it can be either situational or systematic. The

restriction can only be the stage of direct decision-making and practical implementation, which in most cases is implemented by authorized bodies of state power and administration, parties, and civil society institutions.

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## LEADERSHIP DEFICIT IN EU

**Introduction.** R. Schumann, J. Monnet, J. Besch, A. Spaak are the leaders who were able not only to establish and develop the structure of the modern European Union but as well to endow it with an ideological and substantive component, it is