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RUSSIA'S CURRENT VIEW ON STRENGTHENING US-JAPAN SECURITY COOPERATION

Introduction. According to Russian officials, the main risk the revival of US-Japan security cooperation might cause is that it could significantly worsen the dynamics of security in the Asian region. "Active pacifism" was defined as the central concept of Japan's foreign strategy. Unlike the "passive" pacifism of the Cold War period, which is based on force-free approach, "active" pacifism allows force usage to maintain international peace and security. These measures have become a cause for concern among Russian politicians, which is likely to lead to an intensification of its own defense capabilities in the Far East.

Review of recent publications. Analysis of issues on the subject engaged a number of researchers, in particular A. Ivanov and O. Smirnova, employees of the Russian Center for East Asian and SCO Studies. An outstanding Russian orientalist S. Volkov has devoted his articles to structural analysis on the topic considered.

Objectives of the paper: to analyze whether the Russians should be afraid of strengthening the US-Japan Cooperation and the Asia-Pacific region; to determine the degree of Russian's interest in intensifying tensions in the region; to identify the real threats to national security.

Results of the research. Japan's defense policy at the present stage is characterized by the following main features: introduction of permit for collective self-defense; increased defense spending; development of amendments proposals to the Constitution of Japan. Today's Japan has all the attributes of a state with a strong defense sector. In terms of total spending the budget on the defense, Japan is ranked 6-th in 2021 ranked with the result of 51.7 billion US dollars [1]. Japan actually has armed forces (self-defense forces) and its army is one of the ten strongest armies in the world. In 2013-2019, Russian-Japanese relations accumulated significant positive experience expanding political-diplomatic, trade-economic and humanitarian cooperation. However, these relations are significantly affected by the general international situation, namely the confrontation between Russia and the United States, which support Japan, and the fact that Russia is actively developing the

cooperation with China, which has rather unfriendly relationship with Tokyo. It is also worth mentioning that the United States has not abandoned its policy of containment towards Russia.

The most important element of US global influence remains the military and political alliance with Japan. Washington supports expanding the role of Tokyo as a part of the agreement on security. For years, Russia's leaders have criticized Japan's reliance on the US and urged that the Japanese government would become more independent. With the recent examples, one can recall 2018, when Vladimir Putin discussed the possible deployment of US missiles in Japan and bewailed that the sovereignty of the American allies "in this part ... is very limited, they simply do not have their own word, their own opinion on this issue" [3].

According to some Russian experts, the development of the two countries' joint missile defense system as part of the US global missile defense system undermines the foundations of strategic stability, and, thus, threatens Russia's security [2]. And today, we can understand that Russia is really concerned about strengthening the alliance between Japan and the United States. On January 10, 2020, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Sergei Ryabkov, following a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Takeo Mori in the 11th round of the Russian-Japanese strategic dialogue, stated that the development of Japan-US alliance in the defense sector could threaten the stability of the situation in the Asian region [5].

It is clear that the alliance of Japan and the United States in the framework of defense cooperation, primarily aimed at reflecting not only the possible pre-emptive strike by the DPRK, but mostly against China, which by its actions in the disputed territories tests its strategic capabilities. Along with this, the system could be used against Russia, in case of further rapprochement with China [4].

This high level of Japan's dependence on the United States will not diminish as long as Article 9 of the Constitution remains unchanged. In case if Russia really supports the independence of Japan, it must ignore the intrinsic fears of the return of Japanese militarism and support belated attempts to update the Constitution by Japan. Thus, Russia's position on Japan's intentions to change the status of its own armed forces cannot be called completely articulated so far.

On the one hand, Russia is in favor of ending the US protectorate over Japan and, consequently, in favor of Japan becoming an independent state, particularly in the military defense sphere. On the other hand, Russia, acting as an ally of China in defense, trade, and cultural relations, cannot support the idea of restoring the strength of China's regional adversary.

Conclusion. Japan is resolutely moving from pacifism to a more realistic foreign policy that will ensure effective protection of its territory, resist the challenges of other states, patrol the sea routes and confront enemies where and when necessary. The main risk of strengthening US-Japanese cooperation could significantly worsen the security dynamics in the Asian region. Today, one can argue about the mostly hostile attitude of the Asian region countries to the prospects of constitutional changes in Japan, which will affect the status of its armed forces. Indeed, amendments to Article 9 of the Constitution could destabilize the situation in

the region, leading to a process of further increasing military capabilities by Japan's neighbors. Russia's position on Japan's intentions to intensify its military forces under the auspices of the alliance is not yet outlined. Date changes in the defense policy are of no radical nature and the transformation of Japan to "normal state" (country, which holds full and massive military construction, appropriate its economic power) is still far away. Acquiring real military capabilities to deter potential threats is virtually impossible without a radical overhaul of military security policy.

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“SPECIAL RELATIONS” AS AN ELEMENT OF BRITAIN’S FOREIGN POLICY TRADITION

Introduction. Researchers have different interpretations of the existence of such phenomenon as “special (Anglo-American) relations”, arguing that they are mostly not “special”, but simply formed as a permanent choice of Great Britain between the European and American policy vectors. Some argue that choosing between America and Europe is wrong decision, and “special relations” just have been strengthened by the fight against terrorism since 9/11. However, this article will help to clarify that there are a number of features that have emerged since the end of World War II and shape British foreign policy, actively supporting cooperation with the United States in the framework of “special relations”.

Review of recent publications. Significant contributions to the study were made by scholars such as Brown R., Marsh S., and Baylis J., who traced how “special relations” were formed and retrained in the British foreign policy tradition by analysing vision of British politicians; Wallace W., Phillips Ch. and Allen N., Choy H. emphasized on the current period, focusing on transforming the vision of “special relations” during the rule of D. Trump and J. Biden in the context of BREXIT, and what challenges to Anglo-American relations are presented today and future.

Objectives of the paper. The aim of this study is to analyse the formation and development of such phenomenon as “special relations” in the foreign policy of Great Britain after the World War II: its role and relevance in modern conditions within BREXIT.

Results of the research. The definition of “special relationship”, which means close relations between the British Commonwealth, the British Empire, and the United States was intensified after Churchill’s speech at Fulton in 1946. Its origins were preceded in 1941 with the adoption of eight principles that contributed to world peace and the spread of democracy in the world – the Atlantic Charter.

The United States and the United Kingdom share common historical, cultural, commercial, democratic values and interests. As a result, it is not surprising that Washington and London have begun to work closely together in the international arena. But events such as the 1956 Suez Crisis, considered the lowest point of the