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## IMPLEMENTATION OF US INFORMATION SECURITY IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**Introduction.** The implementation areas of information security carried out by every country are the protection of political, state, public interests, moral values and human rights from internal and external encroachments by potential stakeholders. The goal for the latter is always to meet their own needs, and the issues of responsibility and legality of actions taken by such entities usually do not cause them any concern. At the state level, the most successful event for one country's external interference in another's internal processes is the electoral process and the actual presidential election.

**Review of recent publications.** The problem of protecting US information security during the election process and counteracting foreign interference in it has been widely studied in American and domestic scientific-conceptual and socio-political groups. In particular, it is worth mentioning D. Korstanzh, D. Levin, J. Godines, N. Marinov, S. Shulman, D. Volz, D. Sanger, J. Barnes, I. R. Bodnar, O. P. Beak, V. Zhugan, V. Pashkov, O.M. Kosogov, who considered the features of external interference in the electoral process of the United States. However, the lack of sufficient research on this issue in the context of the next US presidential election, which took place in the fall of 2020, makes it possible to study and analyze it after the event.

**The purpose of the article** is to analyze the features of implementing the US information security during the 2020 presidential election and determine its effectiveness at the end of the latter.

**Results of the research.** An example of a fairly successful foreign influence on the electoral process is the large-scale and systematic Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential election, which motivated the United States government to make a series of changes to information security regulations and implement a series of organizational measures to protect the election process of the 2020 presidential elections.

The decentralized type of American electoral system allows each state to vote in any way convenient to them, as long as it is legitimate and does not violate the federal law. As a result, this makes it difficult to regulate the electoral system and to be able to approve uniform rules on the specifics of the elections to which each state would be subject. Nevertheless, the issue of information security in the election process is one of the main components of US national security and is given considerable attention at the federal level. This is confirmed by the National Counterintelligence Strategy, which emphasizes the fact that Russia remains a serious intelligence threat to US interests, using aggressive actions to incite and exacerbate tensions and instability in the American society, as well as to interfere in the security of elections [1].

In terms of legislation, the United States government has initiated a number of bills to help combat cyber threats to protect the information security of the election process. For example, State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act, SAFE Act, Defending American Security from Kremlin Aggression Act and others. Regarding organizational measures aimed at protecting the electoral process, the following should be noted: supporting the efforts of states and local communities in combating

external threats to the electoral process through the exchange of information on vulnerabilities and threats to electoral systems; providing technical assistance, development and implementation of training programs and practical trainings; assisting state and local authorities in preparing an algorithm for responding to cyber-attack incidents targeting their electoral systems and more. Also, a special project PROTECT 2020 was created, the task of which was to involve voters in counteracting foreign influence on the electoral process. This project is a development of the newly created Agency for Cyber Security and Infrastructure Protection – CISA [2].

Given the serious and large-scale preparation of the US government to protect the next 2020 presidential election from foreign interference, it seems that the latter did indeed pass without any threats to information security, especially from Russia. At least, this is stated by the US officials, who are directly responsible for ensuring the information security of the election process and protecting the critical US digital infrastructure. For example, Acting US Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf described the election as «the most protected in history» [3]. Subsequently, representatives of the services responsible for the protection of the election process in the US Department of Homeland Security issued a joint statement in which they rejected suspicions of large-scale fraud in the 2020 presidential election. Like, there are no signs of interference in at least one voting system to change the results [4].

However, a joint statement issued by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency and the Computer and Infrastructure Security Agency on 5 January 2021 stated that Russia was «likely» to be involved in a series of cyberattacks on a number of US federal agencies of the United States. As a result of successful operations, the attackers penetrated the internal networks of almost a dozen different federal agencies and departments. At the same time, US officials say that the purpose of the hackers, apparently, was to gather intelligence, and not to carry out any destructive actions [5]. In turn, Donald Trump considers the election compromised in favor of newly elected President Joe Biden and constantly declares "mass fraud" by China. At the same time, the ex-president does not provide any facts to confirm such statements [6].

**Conclusion.** Thus, according to the results of the study, it can be argued that this time the US government has prepared and the US presidential election in 2020 was much more secure than the previous ones. Most measures to counter foreign interference, especially from Russia, have proved to be effective. However, time will tell whether the next election was «the most protected in history». Currently, the newly elected president faces a number of important issues that need to be addressed. These include improving the epidemiological situation around the impact and consequences of the coronavirus pandemic; restoring the internal balance in the country by reaching the maximum possible understanding between political parties, the government and the public; issues of influence on the internal state of affairs of social media platforms and their normative regulation; adjustment of foreign policy problems; reconciliation of Americans in the context of existing political, racial and other contradictions within the country.

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## **CURRENT TRENDS IN THE PROCESSES OF ADAPTATION AND INTEGRATION OF MUSLIM REFUGEE WOMEN TO GERMANY**

**Introduction.** Over the last 20 years the number of migrants has increased significantly. Germany is one of the five world leaders in the number of migrants. This pattern points out that globalization and new trends in international relations are reviving the process of displacement. The problem of the refugees influx into Europe