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## **FRENCH MIGRATION POLICY**

**Introduction.** In the second half of the twentieth century, rapid integration processes began in Europe, and in particular the problems of adapting national cultures to each other and the development of a common European identity played a significant role. The search for a new pan-European identity got complicated by the large influx of immigrants to Western Europe. If before the 1960-s and 1970-s Europeans faced, by and large, only difficulties in overcoming economic, social and cultural differences between European states, then now it is impossible not to reckon with people from other parts of the world who also live in Western Europe.

The main flow of immigrants comes from Muslim countries (Turkey, Morocco, etc.), which has already been noted both at the national level of France and at the general level of the European Union. The number of immigrants is difficult to determine, as a large percentage of unregistered immigrants live illegally. France, like other European countries, is facing a problem which 30-40 years ago was not on the agenda, but has now become one of the key tasks that requires an immediate solution. This is namely a problem of acculturating new ethnic communities.

In France, immigrants are now able to have a significant impact on socio-political processes and the level of conflict in the country. They are increasingly demanding recognition of their identity, to make Islam part of the social life in the European countries. That is why the French government pursues a purposeful policy in the field of education, which aims to integrate all national cultures of the state.

**Review of recent publications.** It should be noted that in the scientific literature there is not enough comprehensive political research on the problem of modern immigration processes in France during E.Macron's presidency from 2017 to the present year and their subsequent regulations.

This, in turn, gives some space for carrying out a research in this area. In our paper we basically rely on the works by V.A. Iontsev, T.V. Cherevichku, Ya.R. Stryeltsova, B.V. Debts and oth. The monographs by V.A. Iontsev, who reveals modern theoretical trends that explain the international migration of the population, and classifies the main scientific approaches to its study, are of particular

importance. T.V. Shoe as well reflects on the patterns of migration in the context of globalization. The main problems of building state migration policy and new institutional structures of migration have been highlighted. J.R. Streltsova draws attention to migration policy in the context of the 2012 presidential election.

To consider the problem of Islam in a secular state, B.V. Dolgova's works have been of use. Among the Western researchers on this issue D. Weiss, S. Ossman and S. Terrio, D. D'Ecanville, A. Mayotte are worth mentioning. D. Weiss, S. Ossman and S. Terry have helped to assess the migration policy in France. D. D'Ecanville has evaluated the campaign promises on the migration policy of presidential candidates in 2012, which helped in the study and comparison. A. Mayotte's work has helped us consider the problem of the migration collision and national identity in France.

**Objectives of the paper:** to investigate migration processes to the French Republic.

**Results of the research.** The terrorist attacks in Paris on November 13, 2015 were the final point, when it became clear that migration policy requires not just improvement, but a radical overhaul, as the level of conflict in the country (and in other EU countries) is growing. Thus, it can be stated that the problem of illegal and even legal immigration is extremely acute for modern France, as it leads to an increase in protests in society (both indigenous and migrant), undermines political and economic stability in the country, entails escalation of interethnic and interreligious violence. Therefore, France as one of the locomotives for European integration and a country with a high percentage of migrants, has in fact launched its migration policy towards increasing and limiting the reception of migrants.

President E. Macron does understand that a well-thought-out migration policy at the national level, taking into account the current situation and the mood of the French, and at the same time developing a pan-European position in this area will increase his popularity. This is especially important now, when there are demonstrations of "yellow vests" in the country and its rating has dropped significantly.

Currently, there are two camps in the European Union – one is led by E. Macron and A. Merkel, who generally supports controlled migration, the other – by the Visegrad Group, which opposes illegal migration, whose position is closer to Italy's approach on a number of issues, and partly Austria. The supranational format of the EU's migration policy, being of a recommendatory nature, requires another revision in the light of new realities and growing contradictions with opposition parties in the European Union, especially in the run-up to the European elections. It is possible that E. Macron's proposals to establish new general agencies, including the field of granting the right to asylum, as well as to make changes in the system of EU borders protection, may contribute to the formation of a common European policy. Recent events in France have shown the weaknesses of the global "E. Macron project", which, despite its artificiality, was informatively elevated to the electorate supported by the oligarchs. E. Macron's ideas were obvious – the austerity reforms adopted by previous governments will affect the economic and social situation of the population and in the medium term will lead to the collapse of the welfare state in France.

**Conclusions.** E. Macron introduced a state of emergency status in economy and social fields. This was the answer to 25 demands made by the "yellow vests", which seemed clearly unrealistic. Against this background, interest in E. Macron's immigration program and solving refugee problems began to decline, especially given the fact that among the "yellow vests" there are few people from Africa. However, their demands include: establishing decent living conditions for those who have applied for refugee status; immediate repatriation of those who have been denied refugee status; conducting a serious policy on immigrants – for those aiming to live in France must become the French, know the language, history and laws. These requirements differ little from the provisions of E. Macron's migration policy.

Following a terrorist attack in Strasbourg by a local Moroccan, Yellow Vest activists speculated and agreed that it had been staged by French authorities to divert attention from the 5-th round of protests scheduled for 15 December. However, in any case and with any outcome of the events, E. Macron should strengthen his policy and approach to the fight against terrorism and radical Islamists, which is not yet effective enough.

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