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CENTRAL AFRICA'S PLACE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Introduction. The African section is not a disconnected period of history of the international relations of the XIX - XX centuries. There have been issued a lot of books and articles about Africa and the problems of its development, a number of studies have been conducted so far. There are many various viewpoints on this subject. When we are told about Africa's countries, we imagine indigent countries with penniless population, where banditry, terrorism, civil wars, constant ethnic conflicts and lack of prospects prevail and thrive. Africa is unlikely to be going through the best times, but it has all the necessary criteria to break into the international arena. One can often come across the articles with the leading idea that Africa has lost its charm after the Cold War. If to regard the situation like that, then what is better for us to say about China, the US, Brazil and India that are quite successful on their continents? Despite Africa's advantageous location in international relations, its potential, its destiny is vague. Why did it get into slavery? Why is it an attractive continent right now? To answer these questions, to understand the essence of today's relationships, we should infuse ourselves into history.

The object of the study is the foreign policy of developed countries in relation to Africa.

The subject of the study is the Central Africa's countries in the above-mentioned relations.

Chronological framework includes XVI - XX centuries.

Geographic framework implies the African continent.

The purpose of the current paper is to study the impact of developed countries on the African continent.

The objectives of the paper are as follows:

1. To consider the history of the colonization of Africa.
2. To analyze the methods and policies of the operation of the African colonies.
3. To scrutinize the period of countries' independence.
4. To analyze further development of African countries.
5. To summarize contributions made by the colonial period to the development of Africa.

It's natural to raise the question: What has brought colonization for the countries that fall and face the decay? I will focus on the minuses of Africa's development, because they are the most obvious. Millions of indigenous people died in colonial wars, and the states pursued the policy that resulted in lessening of the population to 16 million in the 16th and 18th centuries. Division of territory was not

based on ordinary factors, historical or ethnographic, but at its discretion, as it was useful for each participant in colonization. Accordingly, from here there is a logical consequence that many peoples are united under the auspices of one state. But no one has taken into account that these peoples may have been hostile to each other since ancient times. And this fact has greatly affected modern Africa, civil wars are occurring there up to this day. Similarly, all colonies were completely transformed into farmland charms of the metropolis.

The main plus of colonization is the creation of new branches of industry and agriculture, which are still regarded as foremost economics realms among the third world countries. With the period of the monopolies, Africa receives a lot of resources, in the form of roads and transport routes that have survived, and this allows us to obtain our economic benefits. Even the educational level of some African peoples has improved since the times of the monopoly.

Conclusion. The problems of the colonization of Africa remain unsolved in the world among all historical disputes. It is very important that African countries are developing, and one of the indicators is the development of politics. Another plus is that some Africans can become French citizens (the French, in their historical past, looked down upon their slaves in Africa as future citizens of their country).

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GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE IN THE ERA OF GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

Introduction. Despite the current rapid pace of development, there are still all sorts of discrimination in the XXI century. As we live in the era of “information society”, the information inequality is now the highest form of discrimination caused by numerous factors. Gender identity is one of such factors. Issues, related to the peculiarities of gender and its psychological and social disparities, are among the most discussed and controversial in today’s information society. For this reason, one can mention about the phenomenon of gender digital divide as the most acute form of modern segregation.

The objective of this paper is to analyze the gender identity factor that defines the level of involvement in the information society and to elaborate certain possible ways to address the gender digital divide.

One of the most effective components that determiners the development of society in the XXI century is new information and communication technologies (ICT). However, ICT is one of the key factors defining inequality between different social and economic groups. Today, gender equality and women empowerment value more than ever. So, taking into account the widespread distribution of ICT, overcoming the gender digital divide is one of the major challenges of the modern global information society.

Women around the world face serious economic, social and cultural issues that limit or completely deny their access to ICT, opportunities to use these technologies and to receive benefits from it. This phenomenon can be described as “gender digital divide” [1]. Women are viewed now as the principal economic force in most developing countries. As the economy increasingly depends on information, problems of women’s access to ICT and their use become more and more important. Because of the exorbitant gender bias in the use of ICT in education, culture and