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MIDDLE POWERS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SPHERE

Introduction. The concept of “middle powers” takes a prominent place in the field of international relations studies. However, more attention is drawn to the analysis of the so-called “great powers”, while the theory of “middlepowership” is not covered enough. Nowadays, the role of middle powers in the modern international relations is obviously increasing. After the collapse of the bipolar system of the international relations, they gained a special role, acting as mediators in international conflicts, promoting democratic ideas, and drawing attention to the

humanitarian problems [1: 21]. Thus, the activation of middle power states at the current stage increases the attention to their scientific research.

Review of recent publications. Middle powers attract considerable attention of researchers, but mostly foreign ones. It is worth mentioning S. Belej among the Ukrainian scholars: he focused on the peculiarities, behavioral aspects and diplomatic activity of middle powers. The works of D. Mitraani, A. Chapnick [2], E. Cooper [3], R. Cox [4], R. Higgott and K. Nossal [3], K. Pratt and C. Holbraad [5] have the significant importance. They have formed a considerable academic base, defining the behavioral model of middle powers, their special features, role and influence on the international arena.

Objectives of the paper. The paper aims at analyzing the origin and essence of the concept of middle power, determining its features and functions, systematizing the main approaches to the study of middle powers.

Results of the research. The concept of a middle power is used to designate states that cannot be considered superpowers or small states, with a significant, but not decisive influence on the international system.

The concept of a middle power appeared out of necessity, while the world order was undergoing significant changes. With the start of the decolonization process in the 20th century and after two World Wars, some states fell outside the categorical borders of great and small states. They could not fully attribute themselves to one of these two categories: they had more potential than small states, but still did not reach the level of the great powers. Then there was a need for defining the place and role of such states in the world politics [1: 18].

A unified approach to the definition of middle powers hasn't been formed by the present moment, while four paradigms exist, and this phenomenon is considered within each: functional, hierarchical, behavioral and normative. The functional approach studies states in view of their resources and capabilities, basically economic and military ones, to determine the role of middle power states in the world system. The hierarchical approach defines the role of middle-power states in the context of their place between great and small states as a balancing and normalizing actor in the international relations. The behavioral model emphasizes on the behavior of states as a defining characteristics of the middle power status, rejecting their position in the international hierarchical system. The normative approach defines middle powers in view of their diplomatic activity and in compliance with the criteria for the responsible actor of the international system [7].

The common feature for all approaches is understanding the middle power as a state that has a moderate influence on the behavior of other states compared with small states that can have little or no influence. Accordingly, the middle power can be considered as a state with medium-sized material resources that has certain indicators of "middlepowership" [4: 827], such as the development of the concept of "human security" and principle of multilateralism or the high level of development of the civil society; that carries out a certain line of behavior on the international arena, that positions itself and is recognized as such by the international community.

Regardless of whether the state is considered to be a traditional middle power or emerging middle power, it is marked by a set of certain inherent characteristics [6: 167]. Among them there are willingness to compromise in the international disputes, the advantage of a multilateral format of interaction, flexibility and prudence of foreign policy activities, predictability and stability of the international system as the national interests of the state, the propensity to create coalitions in order to promote common ideas for the formation of the international agenda and the solution of existing common problems, development of diplomatic institutes and means of public diplomacy, promotion of international peacekeeping activities.

Middle powers play an important role in maintaining the international order [4: 835]. They usually initiate the dissemination of new ideas and draw attention to certain international issues, act as founders and coordinators of coalition associations, behave as mediators in the international conflicts and communicators between the opposing parties in the absence of a constant relationship between them, involve active participants in international organizations which support the reforming of international institutions [6: 165] and call for other actors in the international relations to do the same.

Conclusion. Thus, it was found that middle-power states play an important role in the international relations, contributing to the stabilization of the international system. With their lack of commitment to global leadership and ideological influence, inherent features of the so-called “great powers”, they are associated with a mediation and multilateral approach in the international affairs. Moreover, some states, once regarded as middle-power states, gradually began to acquire the level of great powers at the present stage, while the others – traditional middle-power states – are experiencing a decline in their role in the international politics due to the growing influence of developing countries.

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INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

Introduction. Over the past decades, terrorism has undoubtedly overcome one of the most dangerous problems of humanity. In the middle of the XX century terrorism was considered a local phenomenon, but at the end of the century it had captured most of the world. Now, there is almost no place left on Earth where terrorism is not infiltrated. Terrorist acts took place on every continent. Of course, not all countries have committed acts of international terrorism, but this does not diminish the danger of the phenomenon itself. The more cartography of national terrorism is spreading, the greater is the threat of its transformation into an international one. The problem of international terrorism represents a real threat to the world's planetary scale. Terrorism is among the most dangerous and hard-to-forecast phenomena of modernity, which is becoming increasingly diverse in forms and threatening scales.

Review of recent publications. The analysis of the causes and conditions of the terrorism emergence, the general characteristics of some of them, the administrative-legal and international-legal aspects of this issue became the subject of the study of such scholars as V. Zagladin [3], V. Lipkan [5], O. Solovyov [9] and oth.. A deep analysis of the causes of the emergence and growth of modern terrorism has been carried out by some foreign scholars: R. Johnson [1], D. Meyeriec and Th. Grisin [2].

The objective of the paper is to find out and analyze the causes of the emergence of international terrorism and highlight its negative consequences.

Results of the research. Political, ethnic, extremist groups carry out acts of terrorism almost every day. Terrorists' purposes may be different: religious, political, economic, etc. According to M. Kapitonenko, a significant structural factor contributing to the spread of terrorism was the lack of regulatory means in the international system. Multipolar systems generally require more interaction of elements for stability, since their structure does not predetermine the mutual obligations of the states. In some subsystems of the post-bipolar system, such cooperation was clearly not enough to maintain a high level of stability. But general destabilization provoked the use by the parties of their own competitive force advantages, which for some countries became international terrorism [4].