

KURDISH PROBLEM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Annotation. The article analyzes the socio-political situation of Kurdish lands in four countries in the Middle East – Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria, as well as the prospects for Kurdish statehood in the medium term. The issues of Kurdish issues in the structure of modern international relations in the region, namely: Turkish-Iraqi relations; the war in Syria and Iranian ethno-national problems, are considered. Based on the conducted scientific research conclusions on the solution of the Kurdish issue are formed.

Keywords: Kurdistan, Kurdish movement, Middle East, Kurdish problem, autonomy, national minority, political parties.

Introduction. The modern Middle East has always been an arena of rivalry between great countries and, as a result, has become one of the hottest spots in the world. Especially unstable is the territory inhabited by Kurds, where there is a whole complex of acute problems – geopolitical, National, Economic, and social. Without a solution to the Kurdish problem, it is difficult to imagine resolving the conflicts in the Middle East and Transcaucasia. The Kurds are known as the largest ethnic group that does not have its own state. About 25-35 million Kurds live in Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria. It is important that at the beginning of the XXI century. the lands inhabited by the Kurds differed significantly in the level of political development.

Problem statement. The Kurdish problem at the beginning of the Third Millennium takes on the character of the largest humanitarian catastrophe on a global scale. We are talking about harassment and discrimination, leading to the destruction of one of the oldest ethnic groups, carriers of a significant cultural heritage. The solution to this problem provides a wide field of activity for numerous human rights organizations. As you know, the right of any people to freely carry out their economic, social, cultural and political development is declared by UN resolutions.

The main part. The most favorable conditions for the Kurdish movement developed in post-war Iraq, where the Kurdish territories in the north of the country since 1992 de facto received autonomy, enshrined constitutionally in 2005. therefore, at the present stage, Iraqi Kurdistan has become the center of consolidation of Kurdish forces. However, there are still

strained relations with the Central Government of Iraq and neighboring Iran, which are not interested in Kurdish autonomy.

Another hotbed of Kurdish statehood at the beginning of the TwentyFirst Century emerged in Syria, engulfed in a long civil war. In 2012, Kurdish political parties announced the creation of a transitional civil administration that controls seven provinces in the East and north of the country. The positions of this de facto autonomy are fragile, and the prospects are uncertain, since both Turkey and the Assad regime oppose it, but under certain political conditions, the Kurdish movement of Syria can claim to preserve it.

The most difficult situation for the political and cultural development of Kurds today is in Turkey, where Kurds make up up to 20% of the population. Ankara has long pursued an aggressive policy towards the Kurds, denying their national separateness, suppressing the Kurdish movement. The Kurdistan Workers ' Party, as Turkey's leading Kurdish party, is officially recognized, banned and recognized as a terrorist party, and the cultural needs of the Kurdish minority are ignored.

In Iran, the Kurdish territories are economically underdeveloped, and the Kurdish minority does not play a significant role in the country's political life. Tehran, like its neighboring countries, is not interested in Kurdish statehood.

Today, the creation of an independent Kurdistan region within its ethnic borders is hardly possible. At the same time, at the moment, the Kurds ' struggle is aimed at self-determination of their habitats in the form of autonomies. Under favorable conditions, the Kurds can count on the creation of four autonomous regions. However, in the case of Turkey and Iran, a positive solution to the Kurdish issue will require a significant weakening of these states. Today, the Kurdish movement focuses on maintaining control over Syrian Kurdistan.

Conclusions. The Kurdish problem is one of the most complex international problems of a national, regional and international nature, which cannot be solved within a single state. The potential of the international community should be used to solve the Kurdish problem. A possible option is to convene a peace conference with the participation of representatives of Kurdistan, Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria, with the invitation of official representatives of the EU and the United States as observers.

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