

THE KURDISH QUESTION AS ONE OF THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS OF MODERN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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The Kurdish problem that arose as a result of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire is one of the unresolved issues of international relations of the 20th-21st centuries, since the Kurds still remain the largest non-state nation in the world. According to various estimates, their number is 30-35 million people in more than 30 states of Europe, North America, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.

The relevance of this problem is due to the increasing influence of the Kurdish issue on the system of international relations in the Near and Middle East; the ambiguous policies and positions of the world's leading Powers; the urgent need to find balanced approaches to the Kurdish problem in all its aspects.

For a long time, any manifestations of the Kurdish national liberation movement were spontaneous, there was no single idea and strategy for the struggle. The Kurdish people lost chance of gaining autonomy during the Paris Peace Conference, where the Kurdish intelligentsia could not clearly articulate demands for the future fate of Kurdistan [1].

Until the end of the 1920s XX century. Kurdistan was already finally divided between Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria. The political, ethnic and even cultural rights of the Kurds have never been recognized by these countries [2]. On the one hand, this hindered the process of national consolidation and the growth of national identity among the Kurds, on the other hand, it sometimes gave this movement extremist features. Due to the political division of the ethnic group by state borders, the ethnosocial development of the Kurds has always proceeded in extremely unfavorable conditions, constantly aggravating and leading to acute, bloody and prolonged conflicts.

Problems of a socio-economic nature were imposed on this, since the relevant states did not seek to develop ethnically "alien" territories. Nevertheless, in the Kurdish environment throughout the twentieth century, the process of forming and raising national identity continued, which has been especially stormy in recent years.

The Kurdish national question gained international importance more than 100 years ago and throughout this period it is constantly present in relations between the countries of the Middle East and the policies of Western countries. From an international legal point of view, the essence of the Kurdish question is the refusal of the ruling circles of the states that shared

Kurdistan to provide the Kurdish people with the opportunity to realize the rights to self-determination, and instead, a policy of genocide and discrimination is implemented from time to time [3].

The Kurds never had their own national state. They have never been recognized for any national rights in countries that at different stages of history included the territory of ethnic Kurdistan [4, 24-25].

The most tragic is that the multimillion-dollar people do not have their own state: about 20 million people. - in Turkey, 6-8 million people. - in Iraq, 3-5 million people. - in Iran, about 1 million people. - in Syria, the latter - in the countries of Transcaucasia, Central Asia and in Europe. For example, the Kurds are the largest ethnic group in Syria, it accounts for 10% of the total population. They suffer from discrimination, because about 300 thousand people do not have citizenship [5], although they live in Syria all their lives. They are called “foreigners,” “non-indigenous people,” they do not have elementary rights to higher education, to serve in state bodies and the army, and most importantly, they do not have electoral right [6].

The Kurdish problem at the beginning of the third millennium is becoming the largest humanitarian catastrophe on a planetary scale. We are talking about harassment and discrimination, leading to the destruction of one of the oldest ethnic groups, carriers of significant cultural heritage. The solution to this problem provides a wide range of activities for numerous human rights organizations.

Today, the Kurdish problem has become more acute. Despite the centuries-old existence of the Kurdish nation and the ongoing struggle for the creation of an independent state, the Kurdish issue remains unresolved.

So, from the moment of emergence, the Kurdish question has become one of the most difficult national and international problems, which is due to the central geostrategic position of Kurdistan in the Middle East political arena.

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