Main guidelines of US foreign policy in a post-bipolar world

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Abstract

Relevance of the studied problem is caused by the fact that the new American foreign policy strategy issued after disintegration of bipolar system of the international relations is of a great interest to modern researchers both in the field of the international relations, and in studying of the general history of the USA in the 20-21st centuries. Article is directed to identification of the main vectors of the USA foreign policy during the post-bipolar period. System approach is the leader in studying of this problem as it allows to consider an object of research from the different view points, using various scientific methods in complex. The main results of research demonstrate that the USA foreign policy during the post-bipolar period was formed around the principle of absolute and global domination of the USA and was directed to maintenance and strengthening of the unipolar world. However, this policy was carried out in many ways therefore it makes sense to consider various provisions of the American foreign policy strategy during the considered period for a reconstruction of fuller picture of the USA foreign policy during the post-bipolar period. Materials of article can be useful both for use in educational process, and for preparing educational, methodical and scientific literature, and also to conduct further researches in the field of the USA foreign policy.

Keywords: the USA foreign policy, post-bipolar period, one-polarity, principle of global domination, politician of "export and support" of democracy, "humanitarian interventions", strategy "changes of the regimes", "soft force".
Introduction

With disintegration of bipolar system of the international relations and the end of the "cold war" on the verge of 80th and 90th of the 20th century, the United States of America remained the only super-state in the world. George Bush, being the U.S. President, on January 28, 1992 in his message declared to the Congress of the USA: "Yesterday's problems are behind, tomorrow's – ahead" [1]. Indeed, new tasks came to replace the old geopolitical tasks and the principles of foreign policy of the United States in the 90th years of the 20th century and in the first decade of the 21st century.

The situation in foreign policy for the United States of America from 80th years of the 20th century changed strongly. The old principles directed to control of the Euroasian aggressor in the person of the USSR became more irrelevant. As George Bush declared, "communism died" [1], "cold war" ended, armament race stopped, and the USA had to choose a new course.

The end of the "cold war" and crash of the Soviet Union put in front of the USA the problems of the world reorganization and creation of new geopolitical strategy. The victory in armament race and position of the United States of America in the new world became the excellent prerequisites to forming one-polarity with predominant force as the USA possessing the strongest army, economy and diplomacy in the world.

W. Clinton in the inauguration speech declared that the United States of America faced the call of forming an absolutely new foreign policy in fundamentally changed world, having confirmed that crash of communism inevitably attracted new dangers and difficulties to the USA. Then the president Clinton noted that the United States have to "continue to lead that world for which they did so much", noting a leading position of the United States in the updated post-bipolar world[2].

Relevance of this problem is caused by the fact that the new American foreign policy strategy issued after disintegration of bipolar system of the international relations is of a great interest to modern researchers both in the field of the international relations, and in studying of the general history of the USA in the 20-21st centuries.

Methods

At the same time extremely important becomes the use of the system approach allowing to consider a complex problem from the different view points and with application of various methods. The analysis of the doctrinal sources forming a basis to the American foreign policy strategy during the post-bipolar period is necessary for studying this problem first of all. In particular, among those it is possible to call versions of Homeland Security Strategy, National military strategy, addresses of the U.S. President to the Congress "About situation", inauguration speeches of presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama, official speeches of presidents and other plenipotentiaries of the USA and others [3].

Results

Expansion of the American influence over the whole world, attempt of deduction and strengthening of one-polarity by the principle of absolute and global domination of the United States of America became one of the main priorities of the USA foreign policy during the post-bipolar period.

In May, 1993 the president W. Clinton signed the directive No. 13 [4], directed to increase the UN role in the USA peacekeeping operations. This directive was urged to replace the tradition of rivalry of two super-states which developed in the years of "cold war" with international cooperation in affairs of peace-making and prevention of armed conflicts worldwide. In 1994 this directive evolved in the directive No. 25 which designated aspiration of the United States to lean...
not on the UN in the solution of questions of war and peace, but on own military-political NATO alliance[5].

In the 90th years of the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st century of the USA performed military operations in Haiti, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, in other countries of the Middle East. While the USA hardly had on it sufficient competences, these operations did not cause any open criticism from other states and the world community in general. It emphasizes the fact that huge authority and global influence the United States were included into a post-bipolar era. The USA became the real "gendarme" and "the main peacekeeper" around the world, having in many respects refused services of the United Nations.

Having become in the course of history a full-fledged predominant force on the American continent, the United States of America in the 90th years of the 20th century actively expanded economic and diplomatic relations with the countries of East, Southern and Southeast Asia. It was connected, first of all, with the fact that these regions were and still are one of the most dynamically developing around the world. The big population of these regions promoted placing profitable sales markets of the western states in them. Huge volumes of cheap labor favored the considerable investments from the USA and the countries of the European Union, and also transfer of part of the enterprises on the territory of China, India, Pakistan, Vietnam, etc.

Maneuvering during this period between India and Pakistan in questions of strategic partnership in the region of the Southern and Central Asia [6], and also between China, Taiwan, Vietnam and Japan [7] on creation of a comfortable production and trade zone in East Asia, the American administration tried to build up a friendly and mutually beneficial relationship regardless of foreign policy contradictions between the states.

The Middle East remained the important region in foreign policy strategy of the United States of America. First of all, it was caused by large volumes of energy carriers production in it; oil and gas, as well as high general instability in the region. Israel, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, also the partner in NATO remained the main allies and partners in the Middle East during the post-bipolar period.

Besides increasing influence and direct presence in the Middle East, the American geopolitical strategy provided possible re-cutting of borders in this region on the Big Middle East project, having carried out in parallel the democratization of the Arab states and fighting against terrorism. In spite of the fact that the American leaders did not manage to carry out this policy, and attempts to democratize the Middle East led only to increasing instability in the region [8], at the beginning of the 21st century the USA continues to increase its influence in the Arab region.

With disintegration of the Soviet Union the USA increases the influence in Eastern Europe as well. If till 90th years of the 20th century the number of diplomatic and economic contacts between the countries of the former socialist camp and the USA was relatively small, with crash of communism and "Iron Curtain" the Eastern Europe states become important partners of America and entered the military-political NATO alliance.

A specific place in the American foreign policy strategy is held by the Russian Federation with which from 90th years of the 20th century the USA and NATO improves relations, developing partnership in questions of disarmament and non-proliferation of the nuclear weapon. However at the beginning of the 21st century, in connection with the Georgian-OSsetian conflict of 2008, situation in the Middle East and accession of the Crimea by Russia, interests of the states disperse, and the modern USA again sees Russia as opponent whose aggression in Europe needs to be constrained.

Strengthening influence worldwide, on all continents, creating an image of "the main peace-keeper", the United States of America also applies for a role of the main source and the exporter of democracy. In different versions of the Homeland Security Strategy of the USA it is said about
necessary support of democratic initiatives in the countries worldwide [9]. It is necessary to look for sources of similar opinion in a historiography of the USA of the 19th century when a number of the American historians and ideologists stated a position that the United States of America have "messianic mission" not only on the American continent, but also around the world.

Actively the policy of "exporting and supporting democracy" was shown in the Middle East and in Eastern Europe. The American strategy of "changing the regimes", support of "the Arab spring", "velvet" and "color" revolutions in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union perfectly fit into the general foreign policy line, creating an image of the USA as defender of the rights and freedoms of citizens not only in their own country, but also worldwide.

Indeed, democratic political regimes flourished in majority of the states entering a zone of direct influence of the USSR and advancing socialist ideas. The former opponents of the United States of America, accepting democratic values, became allies of the USA which increased global influence of the last even more.


Events of September 11, 2001 mark the beginning of a new era in development of the American foreign policy strategy. From now on fight against terrorism became the main priority of the USA on the international scene. Leaning on this paradigm, the United States of America carried out military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq, actively using new strategy in relation to the opponents. The possibility of "preventive strikes" over the countries posing threat to homeland security of the USA was designated by the U.S. President J. Bush in the message to the Congress of the USA on January 29, 2002 [12] and in speech before military academy in Vest Point on June 1, 2002 [13]. All this created the so-called "Bush's doctrine" which is finally fixed in the Homeland Security Strategy of the USA of the September, 2002 version [14].

A specific place in new strategy was held by the so-called strategy of "changing regimes" assuming a possibility of the USA replacing objectionable regimes by force worldwide, from where, according to the American leaders, threat to the homeland security of the United States of America proceeds. They successfully applied this strategy in Iraq, having intruded there in 2003 and having overthrown finally Saddam Hussein's regime.

The important place in the USA foreign policy during the post-bipolar period is taken by the "soft force" as ability to attract states with cultural, social and political values. In understanding of the majority today the USA are associated with the concepts "liberal democracy" and "market economy" [15]. Actively using possibilities of "public diplomacy" and increasing its financing, the United States appear for the population of Earth to be the real defender of the rights and freedoms, the peace-keeper and the leader of the modern world — in other words, they seem what they want to seem.

Discussion

It is possible to allocate the main directions of the USA foreign policy. The American geopolitical strategy sets the task of creating its own hegemony in the world through expansion of diplomatic, military and economic relations with all regions of the Earth. Actively pursuing the policy of "exporting and supporting democracy", rendering protection to the new political regimes set by military operations and "color revolutions", fighting against the international terrorism worldwide, actively participating in peacekeeping operations of the UN and NATO, the United States of America make impression of the world leader competent to individually resolve international issues. However, in our dynamically developing world where resolution of conflicts is
possible only by compromises and international dialog, the importance of USA as a world gendarme gradually diminishes which leads to multi-polarity development.

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