

Research article

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Continuity and traditions in russian foreign policy

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Abstract. *The article examines the problem of continuity and traditions in Russian foreign policy, as well as the process of formation of a new Russian diplomacy in the post-Soviet space in 1991-2000. The author concludes that the new Russian diplomacy has inherited the diplomatic traditions of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, while successfully forming its own distinctive features. By the end of the 1990s, Russia's foreign policy towards the post-Soviet countries had become more pragmatic, which made it possible in the following decades to build a system of mutually beneficial relations both in a bilateral format and within the CIS. Modern Russia is persistently striving to build a democratic system of international relations that meets the real needs of the world community in the 21st century. The fundamental principle of this system should be the solution of international problems on a collective basis in strict accordance with the norms of international law.*

Keywords: continuity of traditions, foreign policy, international relations, history and culture, Russian diplomacy, diplomatic traditions

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Научная статья

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Преемственность и традиции в Российской внешней политике

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Аннотация. *В статье рассматривается проблема преемственности и традиций в российской внешней политике, а также процесс становления новой российской дипломатии на постсоветском пространстве в 1991-2000 годах. Автор приходит к выводу, что новая российская дипломатия унаследовала дипломатические традиции Российской империи и Советского Союза, при этом успешно сформировав собственные отличительные черты. К концу 1990-х годов внешнеполитический курс России в отношении стран постсоветского пространства стал в большей степени прагматичным, что позволило в последующие десятилетия выстроить систему взаимовыгодных отношений как в двустороннем формате, так и в рамках СНГ. Современная Россия настойчиво добивается строительства демократической системы международных отношений, отвечающей реальным потребностям мирового сообщества в XXI веке. Фундаментальным принципом этой системы должно стать решение международных проблем на коллективной основе в строгом соответствии с нормами международного права.*

Ключевые слова: преемственность традиций, внешняя политика, международные отношения, история и культура, российская дипломатия, дипломатические традиции

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Introduction. The foreign policy of any state cannot be built from scratch; it inevitably bears the imprint of continuity, conditioned by the country's geopolitical position, the peculiarities of its history and culture. This is especially true for Russia, which for centuries has been and remains one of the key players on the European and world stage.

The concept of continuity of foreign policy includes understanding of all historical experience, its positive and negative aspects. The tradition of Russia's active participation in the formation of the system of international relations at various stages of its development runs through the entire history of Russian foreign policy.

In foreign historiography, the question of the relationship between tradition and innovation in Russian and Soviet foreign policy was decided mainly within the framework of the general concept of "continuity." According to this concept, the goals and motives of Soviet, and then Russian, policy remained and remain fundamentally the same as in pre-revolutionary Russia.

While building a fundamentally new foreign policy course in many respects, Russia must, at the same time, actively rely on the traditions of Russian politics of the past, using both pre-revolutionary and Soviet foreign policy experience and traditions to the extent and in those directions in which they would contribute to the sustainable development of the country, strengthening its security and prestige in the international arena [1, p. 47].

Materials and research methods. The study used traditional methods of complex analysis of the historical process in combination with the principles of systemic study of the development of international relations, and also used historical and philosophical methodological tools (the method of historical analysis, the method of induction and the method of dialectical comparison).

Literature review. The empirical basis of the study was: 1) documents related to Russia's foreign policy and diplomacy: reports on the activities of the UN and other international organizations, materials on meetings of various UN committees, UNESCO, etc.;

2) official reports and materials prepared by international financial and economic organizations (the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) in the part concerning Russia;

3) historical facts that show cause-and-effect relationships and prove the importance of the principle of continuity for political science.

Research results and their discussion. Continuity and traditions in Russian foreign policy have always played a key role in shaping the strategic picture of the state's international relations. Historically, Russia, with its extensive borders and diverse ethnocultural composition, has developed its own approaches to foreign policy, which have their roots both in ancient times and in more modern historical stages [2, p. 108].

The basis for the continuity of Russia's foreign policy is its unwavering desire to assert and preserve its national independence and ensure the security of its borders. This desire can be traced back to the times of Kievan Rus, when the young state entered into relations with surrounding nations, and to the present day, when Russia actively participates in multilateral negotiations and organizations such as the UN, BRICS and the SCO.

One of the traditions of Russian foreign policy is the desire for multipolarity in international relations. This tradition dates back to the 19th century, when after the Napoleonic wars Russia became one of the initiators of the system of international congresses aimed at the peaceful settlement of conflicts and maintaining the balance of power in Europe. This principle is preserved in modern Russian diplomacy, which advocates for a balance of interests of different states in the world arena, for interaction with key international players and for maintaining the stability of the global political structure [3, p. 83].

Another important tradition is maintaining special relations with nearby regions such as Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. These regions have traditionally been considered by Russia as areas of its special interest, and despite the changes taking place in the world, this attitude remains relevant today. Russian diplomacy seeks to maintain close cultural and

economic ties with these regions, promoting ideas of mutually beneficial cooperation and sustainable development.

We must not forget the importance of the Orthodox tradition in shaping Russian foreign policy. The role of the Russian Orthodox Church as a spiritual and cultural leader on international platforms continues to be significant, especially in relations with the Orthodox world. This spiritual connection helps to strengthen cultural and historical ties, creating a basis for mutual understanding and trust.

Thus, continuity and traditions in Russian foreign policy serve as a kind of compass that helps in navigating complex and multifaceted international processes. They form a stable platform on which the state can build and develop its foreign policy strategies, remaining true to its historical values and goals in today's rapidly changing world [4, p. 204].

However, in today's world, where globalization and technological progress have changed the landscape of international relations, Russia needs to adapt its strategies to remain competitive. This requires flexibility and innovative thinking in approaches to cooperation with other countries and regions. Russian diplomacy is actively working to develop strategic partnerships not only with traditional allies, but also with new players in the international arena, such as countries in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia, which opens up new horizons for political and economic interaction.

Thus, integration into the global economy and participation in global trade and investment flows are becoming important areas of Russian foreign policy. Diversification of the economy and the search for new markets for Russian goods and services are becoming increasingly important against the backdrop of current challenges and sanctions pressure. In this regard, Russia actively supports initiatives to create free economic zones, improve the investment climate and expand transport and logistics infrastructure, which helps strengthen its position in the international arena.

No less important is the role of Russia as one of the key players in the international security system. Interaction in the fight against terrorism, cyber threats and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continues to be a priority for Russian diplomacy. Russian proposals for the formation of a global security system based on equality and mutual consideration of interests find a response in international institutions and among other states seeking to stabilize the global political situation.

It should be emphasized that continuity and tradition, along with modernization and innovation, continue to play an important role in shaping Russia's foreign policy. They provide the necessary resources and tools for the effective operation of the Russian Federation in a complex system of international relations, while simultaneously ensuring the protection of national interests and the promotion of Russia as an influential and responsible participant in the global community [5, p. 24].

However, successful implementation of these strategies requires not only internal efforts, but also constructive dialogue with international partners. Russia is actively working to strengthen its presence in multilateral organizations and platforms, including the UN and BRICS, where significant work is being done to discuss pressing global issues. Russia's desire to develop joint solutions helps not only overcome global challenges, but also to shape the country's image as an initiator of positive change.

In addition, strengthening cultural and humanitarian ties remains another element of Russia's strategy in the international arena. Academic exchange programs, cultural events and festivals organized by Rossotrudnichestvo and other state and non-state structures contribute to the promotion of Russian culture and language abroad [6, p. 125]. They not only strengthen mutual understanding between peoples, but also create favorable conditions for the development of economic and political relations.

In the course of these efforts, Russia also pays attention to supporting domestic businesses in foreign markets. Providing access to new technologies and upgrading production facilities are becoming key tasks that allow Russian businesses to compete globally [7, p. 8].

Joint projects in the fields of energy, infrastructure and innovation open up new prospects for Russian-foreign cooperation, while Russia is actively attracting international investors to strengthen its economic base.

It is important to emphasize that in the context of increasing geopolitical turbulence, Russia seeks to strengthen regional alliances and develop bilateral relations with key partners. Particular attention is paid to cooperation with neighboring countries with which Russia has historically established ties. The development of infrastructure projects, such as the expansion of transport and logistics corridors, helps to intensify trade and promotes balanced economic development in the region.

In parallel, efforts are underway to digitalize the economy and introduce innovative technologies, which are becoming the basis for increasing competitiveness at all levels. Russia is actively developing programs to support startups and technology initiatives, striving to create an ecosystem that promotes the emergence of new ideas and projects. This not only stimulates domestic demand, but also opens up new horizons for the export of high-tech products and services.

Against the background of the designated strategic directions, Russia also focuses on sustainable development and ecology. The introduction of "green" technologies and the use of advanced practices in nature management are becoming an integral part of its national policy [8, p. 47]. These initiatives are supported at international forums and conferences, where the Russian side advocates for the introduction of stricter standards and active cooperation in the fight against climate change.

Through a comprehensive approach based on strengthening trade and economic ties, cultural diplomacy and scientific and technical cooperation, Russia seeks to play a positive role in shaping a multipolar world. This allows not only to consolidate its influence on the global stage, but also to create new opportunities for sustainable development that meet both national and international challenges.

In the context of a rapidly changing world order, Russia is not only adapting to new challenges, but also taking the initiative in forming strategic alliances that meet both long-term national interests and global trends. One of the key areas is expanding cooperation in the energy sector, where the country is actively working to diversify energy sources and technologies. Russia is actively involved in international projects to develop nuclear energy, renewable energy sources and improve energy efficiency, which contributes to the creation of a sustainable energy infrastructure.

At the same time, Russia is making efforts to strengthen humanitarian ties, understanding that cultural diplomacy is a powerful tool for bringing peoples closer together [9, p. 44]. This is manifested in the support and promotion of Russian culture, science and education abroad. Sponsorship of exchange programs, cultural events and scientific conferences allows not only to increase the recognition of Russian achievements, but also to strengthen friendly ties between countries.

Conclusion. Thus, Russia continues to strengthen its position as an important player in global processes, striving for stability, security and prosperity in a rapidly changing global context. Interaction with international partners and integration into the global economy allow Russia not only to protect its national interests, but also to make a constructive contribution to the development of the global system of international relations.

Particular attention is paid to issues of food security and agriculture, where Russia seeks to use advanced technologies to increase crop yields and make agricultural production more environmentally friendly. The introduction of new agricultural technologies and the development of agricultural infrastructure allows us to meet domestic demand and enter new export markets, thus strengthening food independence and competitiveness in the international arena.

Russia's role in ensuring global security remains an important aspect. The country advocates for the peaceful resolution of international conflicts, participating in dialogue within the framework of leading international organizations and forums. Guided by the principles of

multilateralism and respect for sovereignty, Russia proposes initiatives aimed at creating a more just and secure world order that meets the interests of all participants in world politics.

Thus, it can be said that, despite external changes, Russian foreign policy is based on historical experience and traditions, which ensures its consistency and predictability both for the country and for the world community.

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