Abstract
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2. Title: The priority directions of Taiwan's foreign policy (1949-2016).
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6. Bachelor degree
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8. Chair of historical and socio-philosophical disciplines, orientalism and theology
9. Topicality of the research. The conflict between Beijing and Taipei in the past and at present is one of the most acute and frequently discussed issues in the Asian-Pacific region. The Taipei problem is that China regards the island of Taiwan as part of the Greater China, whereas Taiwan considers itself the territory independent of China and claims the status of the independent country. The resolution of the Taiwan problem is the most important task, as the Taiwan conflict affects not only the Chinese-Taiwanese relations exclusively, but also those of the USA. Of special Mention is the period of the Ma Ying-jeon administration from 2008 to 2016 in Taiwan. It is of huge importance for the Chinese-Taiwanese relations because it was just at this period of time that it became possible to temporary resolve the conflict and considerably improve the Chinese-Taiwanese relations. They Chinese-Taiwanese relations are of great geopolitical significance. The affect the Chinese-American relations, and also the relations between Russia and China. As Russia's foreign political course has been lately reoriented toward the East, and, particularly, toward the rapprochement with the People's Republic of China, the Chinese-Taiwanese relations, in particular after Ma Ying-jeon's coming to power in Taipei, are topical for the study in Russia.

Objective of the research is a comprehensive study of the main aspects of the Taiwanese-Chinese confrontation and the most important links between Taipei and Washington in the period under study.

Tasks of the research:
— to analyze the main directions of Soong Mei-ling's diplomatic activity in the period of 1949-2003 and assess its contribution to the development and strengthening of the relations between Taiwan and the USA;
— to examine the specific features of the American-Taiwanese cooperation in the diplomatic, economic and military spheres in the period under study;
— to analyze the methods and principles of the struggle of Taipei and Beijing in 1949-1976;
— to study the specific features of the formation and development of the Chinese-Taiwanese relations in the period of 1976 up to present.

**Theoretical and practical significance of the research** is that the findings and generalizations made on its basis may be used in the development of the lecture courses and practical lessons in such subjects as "The history of the target country (China)", and "The history of the international relations of the countries of Asia and Africa" as the additional materials.

The main principles of the work may also be used in the realization of students' mini projects in the above-mentioned disciplines.

**Results of the research:** we analyzed the specific features of the American-Taiwanese relations in 1949-2016 and the typical features of the confrontation between the PRC and Taiwan in the same period. The basic principle of the research was the principle of historism that requires the study of the process of the development of this or that system in the concrete historical conditions and also the transition from one stage to another. Historism adheres to the principle that the process of the development of and the difference between historical periods is irreversible. The principle of historism enables one by having understood the logic of these or those historical events to determine the tendencies of the further development of the Chinese-Taiwanese relations.

The objective of the historical cognition is the determining of the
influence of this or that period on Taiwan's foreign policy and the relations between the USA and the PRC. The research is not limited by the framework of one scientific discipline - history, it is not exclusively historical, it affects another discipline - international relations. The interaction between several disciplines, and, precisely, between two disciplines - history and international relations, helps in the realization of the tasks set in the research. **Recommendations:**

1. **In** the course of the subsequent work on the topic one needs to analyze the specific features of the tripartite relations between Russia, Taiwan and the PRC.

2. One needs to analyze in detail the foreign political relations between Taiwan and the countries of Western Europe and compare them with the Taiwanese-American relations.