

SUMMARY

Subject matter: Russia's foreign policy in 1991-1999: building new political foundation and organization of mechanisms of interaction with the outside world.

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Topicality of this research is based on a number of aspects. To begin with the foreign policy of the Russian state of the period of 1991-1999 is seen as insufficiently studied and explored in the already available sources. The contradictoriness of the interpretations of historical facts, their frequent misrepresentation form a not absolutely true notion of the period of the 90-s in the scientific circles, as well as among the non-scientific members of the community. Also this subject is topical due to the fact that it enables one to reveal the role and place of Russia in the international political process of the 90-s, the attitude of the state itself to the tendencies of that time that were developing in the world. Finally, the presentation of this subject promotes the understanding of the foreign-policy activity of the Russian Federation at the subsequent stages, as a distinctive continuation of the foreign-policy activity of the Eltsin period.

Objective of this research is a profound analysis of Russia's foreign policy in 1991-1999, a detailed consideration of the stage-by-stage formation of the strategy of foreign policy, its comprehension as a continuous process.

In conformity with the objective of the research we worked out the following **tasks**:

- 1) to reveal the main schools of the foreign-policy thought formed in the 1990-s;
- 2) to give the general picture of the formation of Russia's foreign-policy;
- 3) to describe the structural changes in the Ministry of Russia's Foreign Affairs and, also, to consider the tasks faced by the Russian foreign-policy department;
- 4) to group the events according to the directions of the foreign-policy activity;
- 5) to reveal the main features of Russia's policy regarding the distant and near abroad;
- 6) to consider the Balkans policy as the main indicator of Russia's foreign-policy mechanism;
- 7) to assess the foreign-policy activity of the Russian state in 1991-1999 and its results.

Theoretical significance: the research interprets the issues related to the study of Russia's foreign policy in the late XX century enabling us to reveal the different sides of this problem, analyze the actions of the politicians, assess their efficiency and significance for future international relations.

Practical significance of the research: the material of the paper can find application with the students of the direction of tuition 46.03.01-"History"(profile: history of international relations)

in the course of seminars, writing graduation theses, course papers and mini-projects in such disciplines as “History of Russia”(XX c.), “International Relations”, ”History of Russia’s foreign policy”, “Modern and Recent history”.

Results: Chapter I analyses the impact of the collapse of the USSR on further life of the new sovereign state – the Russian Federation and on the whole world community, and also the search for foreign-policy conceptions inside the state; describes the formation of the MFA; Chapter II reveals Russia’s foreign-policy activity on the international arena through the active interaction with the USA, European and international blocs, the resumption of the relations with the ex-Soviet Republics (now independent sovereign states) within the CIS, and, finally, the policy in the Balkans as the indicator of the foreign-policy activity of the whole period. According to the results of the work the following conclusion was drawn: during the 1990-s the mechanism of the work of Russia’s foreign-policy department was laid, its main foreign-policy goals and means of their achievement were determined. The active work on the international links started.

Recommendation: is advisable to continue the study of the indicated period in the western direction of Russia’s foreign policy activity, and also to supplement the material with the eastern direction; to study Russia’s activity in the relations with the leading powers of the East, such as China, Japan, to explore the Russia-North Korea relations, and, also, to consider in detail the country’s participation in the main economic and political blocs (the APEU, the countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)).