



CAUCASUS IN THE WORLD POLITICS

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Abstract

The Caucasus lands, which gained independence with the collapse of the Soviets, soon began to attract the attention of regional and global powers. The short-lived loss of activity on the region of Russia, the heir of the Soviet Union has entered a race US and Russia in the region. The main reason for this race in the Caucasus, especially in the South Caucasus, is its strategic location and rich underground resources.

The Article examines the conceptual issues of modern geo-strategy, which revolves around the Caucasus and in particular the South Caucasus. In the article special attention is given to research policy of the great and regional powers in the Caucasus and around the Caucasus.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the political situation in the Caucasus in the early 21st century. Taking into account this situation, the three South Caucasian republics conduct a completely opposite foreign policy. If the Republic of Azerbaijan pursues an independent foreign policy, the Armenian Republic, being an outpost of Russia in the south, conducts an aggressive policy towards Turkey and Azerbaijan. Turkey, in turn, wants to join NATO.

The research method of this topic is analytical forecasting taking into account a specific situation, as well as reliance on specific sources.

The main objectives of this study are the analysis of the specific policies of the three South Caucasus republics, their combination with the generally accepted norms of interstate relations. At the same time, the focus is on the specific policy of the South Caucasus republics, where it is possible to trace the balanced policy of Azerbaijan in combination with the terrorist-separatism of the Republic of Armenia, which is reflected in Armenia's policy towards Turkey and Azerbaijan.

The South Caucasus can become a zone of peace under one condition: Armenia will unconditionally release the occupied Azerbaijani lands and establish normal relations with neighboring Turkey.

Keywords: geo-strategy, terror separatism, safety, conflict, sovereignty, independence, disintegration, post-Soviet, universal system.

DÜNYA SİYASETİNDE KAFKASYA

Öz

Sovyetlerin çöküşü ile bağımsızlığını kazanan Kafkasya toprakları kısa sürede bölgesel ve küresel güçlerin dikkatini çekmeye başlamıştır. Sovyetlerin mirasçısı olan Rusya'nın bölge üzerindeki kısa süreli etkinlik kaybının ortadan kalkması ABD ve Rusya'yı bölgede bir yarışa sokmuştur. Kafkasya özellikle de Güney Kafkasya'daki bu yarışın temel nedeni ise bölgenin sahip olduğu stratejik konum ve zengin yer altı kaynaklarıdır.

Makale, Kafkasya ve özellikle Güney Kafkasya çevresinde dönen modern jeo-stratejinin kavramsal konularını incelemektedir. Kafkaslardaki ve Kafkasya çevresindeki büyük ve bölgesel güçlerin araştırma politikalarına özel önem verilmiştir.

Bu makalenin amacı, 21. yüzyılın başında Kafkasya'daki siyasi durumu analiz etmektir. Bu durumu hesaba katarak, üç Güney Kafkasya cumhuriyeti tamamen zıt bir dış politika yürütmektedir. Azerbaycan Cumhuriyeti bağımsız bir dış politika izlemekte, güneydeki Rusya'nın bir karakolu olan Ermeni Cumhuriyeti, Türkiye ve Azerbaycan'a karşı agresif bir politika yürütmektedir. Türkiye ise NATO'ya katılmak istemektedir.

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AKADEMİK BAKIŞ DERGİSİ

Sayı: 64 Kasım – Aralık 2017

Uluslararası Hakemli Sosyal Bilimler E-Dergisi

ISSN:1694-528X Calal-Abad Uluslararası Üniversitesi,

Türk Dünyası Kırgız – Türk Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü

Calal-Abad – KIRGIZİSTAN

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Bu konunun araştırma yöntemi, spesifik kaynaklara bağımlılığın yanı sıra, spesifik bir durumu hesaba katarak analitik tahmin yapmaktır.

Bu çalışmanın temel amacı üç Güney Kafkasya cumhuriyetinin spesifik politikalarının analizi ve bunların genel kabul gören devletlerarası ilişkiler normlarıyla olan kombinasyonudur. Aynı zamanda, odak noktası, Ermenistan Cumhuriyeti'nin Türkiye ve Azerbaycan politikası üzerinden yansıyan terörist bölücülüğü ile birlikte Azerbaycan'ın izlediği dengeli politika üzerinden Güney Kafkasya Cumhuriyetleri üzerinedir.

Güney Kafkasya, bir şart altında bir barış bölgesi haline gelebilir: Ermenistan koşulsuz olarak işgal edilen Azerbaycan topraklarını serbest bırakacak ve komşu Türkiye ile normal ilişkiler kuracak.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Jeo-strateji, terör ayrılıkçılığı, güvenlik, çatışma, egemenlik, bağımsızlık, parçalanma, Sovyet sonrası evrensel sistem.

INTRODUCTION

After the collapse of the USSR, Russia, which declared itself the legal successor of it, counted upon automatically maintaining hegemony over the other former Soviet republics. Instead of helping the newly independent states of the South Caucasus, it has sought to make use of the conflicts in the region to strengthen its geostrategic position. However, the United States have joined in the struggle for spheres of influence in the South Caucasus, which military action in Iraq helped to create a geostrategic foothold in the Middle East, the misuse of the proximity of the South Caucasus. The entire South Caucasus became an arena of rivalry between Russia, US, Turkey and Iran. Responsibility for interests and aspirations of the peoples living in the South Caucasus have the coordinated positions of all states in the region, elimination of hotbeds of conflict in the territory of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, the transformation of the Caucasus into a zone of peace and cooperation.

The preservation of peace in modern conditions derives from the objective state of the world community on the threshold of the 21. century. After a 50-year era of confrontation and "cold war", mankind had a unique opportunity to develop a universal system that can protect it from all sorts of military adventures, "small" wars, battles for supremacy in the geostrategic races, attempts of different clans and terrorists etc., aspiring to political supremacy. Their actions in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East are a clear confirmation of this. Commitment geostrategic supremacy was reflected in the Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan. The Soviets were defeated and forced to leave Afghanistan, but there was left the war, which for many years happened between domestic political factions and clans, behind which stood the foreign forces seeking to regional or geo-strategic domination. Due to the geostrategic interests of the powers Afghans were killed. And, as shown by the events of recent years, they have spread to neighboring countries, particularly in Central Asia. The proximity of the Afghan conflict has found echoes in neighboring Tajikistan. And the result was the "infringement" of geo-strategic interests of the successor of the Soviet Union - Russia and the response from her. Russia sent troops to the territory of a sovereign Tajikistan under the guise of "peacekeeping forces" of the Commonwealth of Independent States. What's next? This is what has to happen, so this is what is happening. All this resulted in responsiveness. The US intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan under the guise of fighting with the Taliban, the establishment of the occupation regime and the establishment of the puppet Afghan government. A similar thing happened in Iraq. Blackmailing the international community for a long time by Iraqi dictator ultimately has led to two wars and executions of Saddam Hussein regime in some 10-15 years.



Race of US and Russia in Post-Soviet Period

In modern conditions, when the socialist system ceased to exist and the international community is to unify - the market economy, the world is becoming much more manageable. Of course, there remains the term "developing countries", which sooner or later will go along the capitalist path of development. The socialist, pro-Soviet experiments in Laos, Cambodia, Angola, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, and even earlier in Indonesia, Burma, Egypt, Syria, Algeria, Yemen, Mali, Guinea, Ghana, etc., ended in failure. Now, more than ever, in full compliance with the objective laws of human development, it is necessary to look for ways of mutually beneficial cooperation of the states located in different regions and at different levels of socio-political development. And interaction of these factors can be very different. We need a differentiated approach to each region, in particular the Caucasus, where four subjects of international law are located. For the national and international security of Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia we should seek common ground, not contradiction, which can lead to unpredictable consequences.

The 20. century is full of such facts and let protect the 21. century from these phenomena. In this regard, the preservation of peace depends on the internal situation and foreign policy of the young sovereign states formed on the ruins of the Soviet Union. The world has not realized yet, what may be happening, if all leave for the so-called "great powers." In this case, the USA and the Russian Federation play this role, considering the states as the area of their geo-strategic interests. At the same time it rejected the analogy from the history of other countries and empires. The above mentioned can be confirmed by the desire of Russia to have Vietnam and Cuba, Syria and Iran, South Caucasus and Central Asia in its geo-strategic interests. The logic is simple, because Russia declared itself the legal successor of the Soviet Union took over all the assets and liabilities of the Soviet Union. A named republics and regions were part of the Soviet sphere of influence. The changing balance of power in favor of a universal system of capitalism, promotes peace and understanding.

Of course, one system or uniformity of state as it happened many times in the history of international relations, do not exclude all possible collisions. We know that the two world wars in the twentieth century started between the same types, the capitalist states. Of course, in any way we do not rule out the fact that competition with the same type of the capitalist system is capable of causing a collision. And this is not exception to the rule. The problem is that the ideological basis will not take place at the heart of a potential conflict. And the conflict is especially likely that in the absence of ideological confrontation, they are more or less predictable, humanity no longer comes at the tip of the blade in the name of ideological ambitions or superiority of one system or another. It is known that in the second half of the twentieth century, the ideological factor was one of the main areas, contributing to heighten international tensions in the world. The collapse of the socialist system and its foundation as Soviet Union made the world safer in many ways. It is important that the military-political and ideological confrontation between the two opposing systems disappeared. Striving for geostrategic supremacy was the main line of the watershed of the two blocks. Now there are no opposing military-political blocs, but there's geo-strategy. After some time, under the flag of the so-called "Arab Spring" West began to implement "democracy and freedom" in Libya, Yemen, Syria and so on. It's been a few years, Dictators Saddam Hussein and M. Kadaffi was executed, Saleh Yemele was ousted. Of course, one system or uniformity of state as it



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The point is that, both the Americans and Russian are checking their tactical and strategic objectives, experience weapons in combat, check the readiness of their aircraft and pilots. They forgot that the United States and the Soviet Union (Russia) once tested weapons in Korea and Vietnam.

Russia has repeatedly said that it will not allow infringement of its interests anywhere in the world. This may explain that in recent years Russia has started to show increased interest in Cyprus, Iran, as well as Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, etc. Although there are no Russian military bases in many of these countries, but there are modern Russian weapons. These include missiles "SS-300" sold to Cyprus, modern launchers, missiles, aircraft, helicopters, artillery, submarines, etc., advanced military aircraft, helicopters and etc. sold to Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia, India. The question arises, if there is no global confrontation, what are these weapons for? This is a very dangerous and slippery pitch that can cause a reaction from other powers.

This also explains the striving of Russia and the United States to establish a geopolitical umbrella over sovereign countries. This is consistent with the predictions of E. Hobsom, who noted in 90-es that "the Cold War" oversaturated world with weapons to the limit, thus leaving behind a powerful ticking time bombs (Hobsom, 1994). The main point is that, every country has the right to decide their internal cases regardless of the wishes of other states, without outside pressure. And in this case, the big states do not have the right in the name of its geostrategic aspirations infringe on the dignity of others, in particular, small countries. In



such situations, local conflicts become the epicenter of attention of the rest of the world, and especially the major powers. Many countries in this situation are forced to carry out a reconnaissance of its foreign policy. Similar phenomenon in the history is the set. Thus, when the Russian Federation tightened its policy on sovereign Baltic states as Western Europe, the US - have made it clear that such actions on the part of Russia will affect its relations with the West. This position was clearly stated by the former US Secretary of State G. Kissinger: "The Kremlin does not have the right to exercise pressures that were established by kings and commissars around Russian wide borders for more than 300 years" (Kissinger (1997: 746). So the US made it clear that Russia cannot act arbitrarily, at its discretion in the 21. century.

International Security

International security is not a local phenomenon in the modern era. And you need to take into account the whole global situation to avoid the autonomous conflict. If you use the logic of those who started a particular adventure, humanity will not get anything except humiliation, because similar phenomena in the international and inter-state relations may become the norm, the so-called power diplomacy. In this case, United Nations Declaration on the equality of all - large and small countries, Final Act of the European Conference on the inviolability of borders will be meaningless. And more states in its sole discretion may dictate, to humiliate, to ignore the will and desire of small nations and states. In this case, the future of the global community will be elusive and unpredictable. In this case, the logic of development will be that, when any nation, humiliated and trampled their rights, years or even a century after wards will seek to restore their dignity and recover their loss. The centuries-old experience of the world diplomacy shows that yesterday's winners can become tomorrow's vanquished and humiliated. C. Clausewitz stressed that war is "not only a political act, but also a true political instrument, a continuation of political relations, holding them by other means" (Klauzevits, 1934: 5). This opinion is shared by modern English scientist E. Kingston McCloughry. In the "Global Strategy" he rightly points out that "war is an instrument of public policy through which the State seeks the implementation of their aims or the strengthening of its power" (Kingston-Makklori, 1959: 25). These words are well suited to the purposes "of the Karabakh war". Its initiators, not puppets, set before themselves adventurist goals on a global scale. The initiators and executors of the Karabakh adventure, failing to achieve its objectives by other means, started this terrible war in the sunset of the twentieth century.

Historical responsibility, elementary common approach, and a simple instinct of human life, once bestowed by God, do not allow anyone to kill another one. Centuries of experience of human history shows that peace and peaceful co-existence is the same for all - large and small states. We must not forget that the two world wars in the twentieth century began with a collision of major powers with small. The history does not forgive political blunders and it is better to consider its lessons than to seek to present a lesson to others. Of course, it may be the interests of one or another state. And it is natural. But they should be resolved in a civilized way, through diplomatic and other channels, rather than resorting to overt or covert blackmail and pressure. As it was in Vietnam, southerners were supported by Americans, northerners – Soviet Union, but died mostly Vietnamese, testing weapons of the two superpowers. Today Vietnam belongs to Vietnamese; all aliens seeking hegemony get out. This is also a lesson for history. Killed millions of Vietnamese, but they defended their land and their dignity.



Speaking about the incident, we aim to warn of current issues - politicians from hasty decisions. It's hard to keep the peace; it is easier to break it. What is next?

Ways and Effects of the Provision of international security in the Caucasus

International Security - is not an abstract concept. It is determined by the national security of any state, regardless of its geographic location, the size of the territory or population. Therefore, speaking about international security should be taken in its volume and space. What does it mean? Firstly, the fate of international security today depends on the particular isolated conflicts, incidents and collisions, and, secondly, from the large-scale, inter-states conflicts and military confrontations. What is easier to solve? It seems that each of these phenomena themselves to some extent equivalent, i.e. both can cause a world of conflict, lead to international complications. In this case, both factors require close attention, timely solutions. The dynamics of their development does not allow delaying them. Cardinal important concept of the geopolitical world order and security, require a civilized approach on the part of all, and above all by the great powers. It is necessary to look for common ground, rather than alienation.

Caucasian people - neighbors, not by choice, but by will of God, therefore, we should live together without strife and without capturing the territory of a neighbor. In the Caucasus, a lot of things mixed: the nation, their culture, customs, languages, traditions, etc. On the other hand, for a long time nations have passed national borders, they have many relatives living on the other side of the border. In fairness, it should be noted that this does not refer to Armenia, where only Armenians live.

However for making Caucasus a zone of peace and cooperation, firstly, extinguish hotbeds of conflict in the territory of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Russia. Secondly, restore the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all countries of the Caucasus. Without this it is impossible to provide political and economic cooperation between four the countries.

After solving these problems in geo-perspective should be created Caucasian Common Market, where later would be invited - Turkey, Iran and the countries of Central Asia and the Middle East.

This international economic structure could attract foreign investors, based on the fact that the Caucasus and Caspian region have enormous energy resources, reserves of minerals, oil, gas, iron, manganese, gold, there is very well-developed transport infrastructure, telecommunications and the reviving Great Silk road, etc.

Creation of Caucasian Common Market, would contribute to the integration of the Caucasian countries, like the European Union, in turn, economic relations would have a huge impact on the stability and security throughout the region. We are talking about the integration of the Caucasus, not as an abstract phenomenon, but as a movement both vertically and horizontally, covering all above and below. All this will help to establish economic, cultural, scientific, and then the political relations between the countries of the region, cities, regions, scientific and industrial centers.

The driving forces of the Caucasian Common Market could become - mutual benefit, voluntary, economic cooperation, equality of all states and of every nation.



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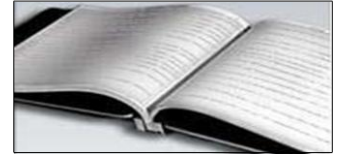
Implementation of such measures - would lead to a duty-free and visa-free zone in the Caucasus, there should be formed a kind of "Schengen" zone of cooperation. In perspective they would have a single currency.

The logic of the development and cooperation of the countries located in this region would be the creation of the International Caucasian Bank of Development and Reconstruction. All this would provide a change to have a common financial leverage, mechanism calculations and payments, to fund priority and promising sectors of the economy, science, education, tourism, transport, etc. By doing this, nations and countries of the Caucasus would exclude war once and for all from their relations. However, despite the obvious benefits for everyone in the Caucasus Region, it is impossible to implement. What is the reason? The reason is that while the Republic of Armenia, with support from the outside, keeps under its occupation 20 percent of the national territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, there cannot be a common Caucasian home. On the other hand, this will not happen until then the territorial integrity of Georgia will be restored. And finally, there is not established stability in the North Caucasus.

Coherent policies would allow a common position to work against the initiators of the conflict; it is allowed to repay the hotbed of tension in the bud. In this case, it would have disappeared deceit, separatism, religious and geo-strategic temptation. And in such cases, the great state in the name of global security could not be guided by narrow national interests. What does it mean? Firstly, great or regional powers will have to drop their own interests for the sake of peace in the world and commit themselves to equal security of all States in the region. Consequently, in both cases, there is a need in a clear and honest approach to the problem. The dynamics of their development requires timely, urgent solutions. The geostrategic concept of world order and security has cardinal importance. It requires civilized approach and above all those who are involved directly in the conflict, and those who are involved in the whirlpool of events.

The experience of past wars in the history of mankind shows that someone starts loses it; the aggressor state degrades and loses moral qualities. On the other hand, the victim of aggression accumulates force, making conclusions from the defeat, albeit temporary. Recall Gaius Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Napoleon, Hitler, let us remember the recent past, the US attack on Vietnam and the Soviet Union on Afghanistan. All these military campaigns ended in defeat. This is the inexorable law of history and logic of development of human society. The one, who disturbs the peace and quiet, gets the laurels of temporary heroes, but fame is fleeting. In turn, humanity gets devastation and poverty. Nothing goes unnoticed. Everyone should get what they deserve. The one, who plots an adventure, should think again. Stopping halfway does not mean defeat; it is the recognition of necessity.

Factors pushing states to the road of violation of international safety are multi-faceted and multi-layered. They usually do not occur in one day or hour. They arise, forms over the years. The internal policy of the state should be traced. The preservation of peace and international security contributed to the creation of a comprehensive international legal regime, as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations, which reaffirms respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity of any member of the United Nations. This is reflected in the Final Act of the Geneva Declaration of the the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).



US Presence in the Middle East and Caucasus

The universal nature of the rules of general international law, the common need of all countries in them, including bilateral relations, means that any local rules of contemporary international law must conform to generally accepted and agreed principles of relations between states. Their unilateral interpretation equivalent to ignoring them and, as a result, there is a failure in some states. This means the creation of specific situation in a particular world region, which sooner or later may develop into a global conflict. In such a situation it is necessary that the relevant international organizations use proactive methods, with the ability to extinguish or suspend the tensions, to be able to react long before than the spark of global conflagration blazes at full power. We have already noted that the world's conflicts arise and are formed for a long time. They can be identified in advance. Otherwise it makes no sense to have such a prestigious, expensive international organizations. The foregoing can be analyzed on the example of the Chechen war, which raged there long before it turned into a bloody war. On the other hand, this conflict is unique in the sense that it originated within the same state. Theoretical outlines of the Chechen war could have been predicted a few years before it began. Of course, there will be the public interest powers; however they can find their solution not by force of arms, the pressure methods, a disguised form of threats, undeclared blockade, etc., but by civilized methods, taking into account national interests and dignity of certain states. The delicacy of the affected problems is in that, it affects the interests of many countries and people living in the Caucasus. There will be successes and failures. The main thing with all this diversity, do not let anyone and anywhere undermine overall Caucasian House. Caucasian peoples living as neighbors for centuries and they are able peacefully solve all the problems here.

But these definitions should make significant changes that have occurred since the beginning of the anti-Iraq war, by the global coalition of powers, under the aegis of the US and England. The United States of America, in the course of this campaign, ignored the UN Security Council, as well as conclusions. On the other hand, ignoring the warnings of the Russian Federation, the United States actually have reduced its role of secondary countries that do not affect in any way the US position.

The problem is that, after establishing dominance over Iraq, the United States thus have closed geostrategic ring: from the east (Afghanistan) and the West (Iraq). This act of the United States decided a few problems: First, they established control over one of the major oil producers in the world - Iraq, and even earlier, during the first anti-Iraq war in 90 years of the 20. century in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Now the United States for a long time will be able to preserve their oil fields for future generations. Second, the US victory in Iraq tied the hands of ambitious neighbors of Iraq. Thirdly, and this is one of the main objectives of this war, they cut Russia from its main ally in the Arab world and its Caucasus. Fourth, this US came close to the borders of Syria and Iran, which have the support of Russia and provided it with weapons. Fifth, now impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by the United States will take practical steps towards its solution. Sixth, the United States have closed a large ring with geostrategic importance, by passing Russia from the south, creating a strong foothold in the Caucasus, the consequences of which will be obvious later. And, finally, going to war without actually counting the support of England (it sent 45 000 troops), the US began it alone. They



have shown the world that they are the only super power in the world today and in the queue can be any country that is not submit to the will of the United States.

In fact, the South Caucasus has become a sphere of geostrategic interests of the US. The greatest role in that played the Russian Federation itself. After the collapse of the Soviet Union - this is a strategic region for some time been abandoned. Russia, which was occupied by domestic affairs, did not think that the former Soviet republic will be able to feel the benefits of freedom and to pursue an independent foreign policy so quickly. In the first years after the formation of independent states, Russia essentially squeezed them out of its sphere of influence. However, happened another thing, sovereign, independent republic more and more every day distanced themselves from Russia due to Russian policy. The mistake of the Russian government during this period was that, instead of establishing equal and normal relations with independent states, it has chosen the way of threats, intimidation, economic blockade, creating conflicts between countries, etc. Russia just left them alone with their problems. And all of this did not escape the attention of the West, and they began to act more decisively in all the States of the former Soviet Union: Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Central Asian countries. In its desire to manipulate the conflict parties, Russia acted so shy that started thereby to lose its position in these countries. And this contributed to the fact that the South Caucasus countries began to prefer the Western countries, rather than relying on the “objectivity” of Russia in regulating inter-State and intra-State conflicts, such as: Armenian-Azerbaijani, Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgian-Abkhazian, and Georgian-South Ossetian. The reason for the inefficient actions of the Russian leadership during this period was in several aspects: firstly, Russia is not fully aware of their role and place of the former Soviet Union, it seemed to RF that by declaring itself the legal successor of the USSR, it automatically takes everywhere its place. Secondly, instead of quickly extinguishing the hotbeds of conflict that began in the former Soviet Union, the Russian Federation started to inflate them, hoping thereby to gain a foothold in the new, sovereign states. Its preached short-sighted, pro-imperial foreign policy was that all the newly independent countries, becoming subjects of international law, must comply with Russian and enter its area of responsibility.

CONCLUSION

However, after some period situation changed and became out of Russian control. Soon, all South Caucasus became the area of rivalry USA and regional powers like Turkey and Iran. As time shows, geo-strategy of Russian Federation and USA in the given region has the opposite character. Each of Post-Soviet countries, after proclaiming independence, began to pursue an independent foreign policy, often without looking at the great powers.

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