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## THE NEW THREATS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE. BEYOND THE HORIZON OF THE FUTURE

Nowadays, the high level of polarization and turbulence is characteristic of the international climate. It has become the consequence of the United States' attempts to restore the unipolar world order via the confrontation against Russia and China simultaneously. Notwithstanding the apparent lack of Washington's long-term strategy as to such "a war on two fronts", the American leaders go on raising the stakes, first of all in supporting the Ukraine that has been turned into the environment for anti-Russian politics. The Summit for Democracy that took place in the end of March 2023 demonstrated the United States' focus on the renaissance of the bloc thinking and ideological confrontation. That exactly is predefining the Washington's course towards the "strategic defeat" of Russia via its internal destabilization and disintegration and preparation for the military confrontation with the People's Republic of China.

Contrary to this Washington's attitude, there are serious changes taking place on the geopolitical map of the world: the Collective West countries are ending to play the driver's role in the global economic growth. The establishment of the polycentric world order, embodying the cultural and civilization variety of the world, is painful for the West used to consider itself the center of human civilization starting at least from the colonial era, and profitably using its hegemony. It is evident now that many countries of the Global South are not ready to put up with their neocolonial robbery and want to act on the international scene in their own interests and not the Western ones.

Respectively, we are having the state of affairs when the West with the United States at the head is trying to keep its world supremacy at any cost, and not only the economic and political factors dominate in this issue but the world view ones as well. This state of affairs combined with the rapid technological progress creates new global threats for mankind. They accumulate and aggravate the already present international challenges which the international community has still not been able to solve at the available multilateral venues, including the United Nations where the West determines the lowest common denominator. Non-traditional or new threats to security acquire the systemic character. Sanctions, embargos, refugees are becoming common prac-

tice. They aggravate socioeconomic and political problems, in particular, instability in the global energy sector, insufficiency of water and energy resources, global food security, etc., threatening the foundations of the states' and nations' vital activities.

*The role of the force factor* in international relations *strengthens*. Russia's independent foreign and domestic policy gives rise to the United States' and their allies' opposition. The plans to move the NATO military infrastructure closer to the borders of the Russian Federation are still the issue of pressing concern for the West. The Collective West "balances on the verge" between hybrid actions and an open armed conflict with Russia. The danger of a nuclear war has enhanced considerably.

One of the most dangerous threats of the modern times is the *uncontrolled armed race*. Practically all agreements for control over the strategic armaments that united Russia and the United States, are no longer in force. Having to deal with the policy of containment on the part of the United States, China has been seriously building up its nuclear potential. All kinds of common armaments and armies in all regions of the world are being updated, and they are often based on artificial intelligence. The threshold countries strive to oppose the United States and their allies by nuclear weapons. The readiness of the NATO member states to *send weapons to the Ukraine* turns into getting new kinds of weapons from the United States instead of the delivered ones as well as production of new kinds of armaments that will be called to enhance the military threat to all other countries including Russia.

The United States' yearning for *expansion of the NATO military bloc's area of responsibility up to the global scales as well as for setting up new military blocs* (AUKUS) in the Global South regions with the purpose of "containing" China and Russia introduces further destabilization into the international climate, facilitating its chaotization. Aggravation of contradictions on the global level is fraught with *origination of new and aggravation of the old armed conflicts* that may lead to extremely grave consequences: in the Middle East, Africa, North-East Asia, etc. In their turn, *the risks of international terrorism will increase*.

Recently, *the evident degradation of international institutions and international law* has been one of the main trends in global politics. In this field, the Western countries switched to the practice of direct banning of compromise decisions taking into account the vital activities of the states not referred to the Western group. This trend is manifested at various venues (OSCE, IAEA, WTO, sports organizations, etc.). The result is decrease of international relations' manageability and aggravation of conflicts.

At the same time, we are witnessing the aggravation of the confrontation referred to *the processes of breaking up the played-out global economic model with the United States at the head and attempts to transfer to a new economic model* basing on the principles of equality of the world centers of economic and political development. The system of international monetary and financial relations established after World War II that has been serving the West-

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ern globalization over the recent 40 years, is being deformed. The sanction pressure on Russia on the part of the United States, EU and other Western countries has caused the economic boomerang effect and helped their self-isolation from the non-Western countries making the majority of the international community. The introduction of the settlement of payments in national currencies between Russia and friendly countries, decrease of the US dollar and Euro influence on the global economy also assist the process of disintegration of the worn-out global trade and economic system as well as monetary and financial system that put brakes on the global development.

*The risks of stagflation in the world economy* are increasing, and that will lead to a wide-range economic recession (the World Bank's forecast). The usual methods of correction used to solve one issue will aggravate other economic problems. Global economy is transferring to the period of low investments, small growth and poor cooperation, and that threatens to undermine its stability and increases systemic risks.

There is a surge of *uncontrolled rivalry and competition of states referred to the structural rebuilding of economy*, first of all its transfer to a new technological foundation. The development of new technologies is becoming a venue for the struggle of sanctions and "export" of countries' influence. The new arms race may be accompanied by resources race, and that will aggravate tensions. The active confrontation in the digital sector will also become a new phenomenon in such a "Cold War": with the measures for providing national security, spying and cyber-attacks in this field. Threats related to providing data, digital systems and communications security have also aggravated against this background.

*The impossibility to solve the issue of the global warming on the planet level turns it into a "multiplier of threats"*, aggravating the issues of migration, poverty or conflicts. The World Bank forecasts that 143 mln people (or about 2.8% of the population) in the Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America will have to change their place of residence by 2050 under the impact of unfavorable climatic changes.

*The threats related to crimes in the information field are increasing.* The most wide-spread kinds of them – cybercrimes – are becoming closely inter-related with political issues. According to experts, the losses of world economy because of swindling and fraud in the information field will amount to USD 11 trillion by 2025. In this connection, criminal cyber-attacks on some segments of economy of certain countries are becoming weapons. The total number of cyber-attacks on Russian organizations will increase at least by 50 percent in 2023. The hackers whose purpose is getting big ransoms, switch to attacking the activities of the companies and that leads to stopping of the most important technological processes and break-downs.

In the near future, the United States and their allies will assist the *further split of the world as to the factor of value*. The liberal model of the social order will be promoted as a kind of ideological criterion basing on which the Collective West is ready to cooperate with this or that country. It will also serve as a kind of ideological divide line dividing the Western world with its satellites siding with it from the Global Majority.

The Collective West activates the policy focused on obstructing *the strengthening of subjectivity of the regional*

*players in Asia, Africa and Latin America* with crisis phenomena as a background. As a result, the situation in these regions is being more and more pregnant with conflicts, it is highly volatile, dependent on domestic political changes and even such unpredictable factors as natural calamities or provocative actions by politicians, which increases threats, challenges and risks affecting the interests of Russia.

The American armed forces as well as military bases of a number of Western countries are still present in many regions of the world. The promotion of regional defense system projects has been renewed by the United States and NATO under the aegis of the bloc. The nuclear weapons issue remains especially acute for the regions. The discussion of non-proliferation issues is activated not without taking into account the growth of the military force component in the contemporary international relations.

As for the political and diplomatic field against the background of the Ukrainian crisis, the United States activated the diplomatic work in the Global Majority countries for the isolation of Russia, pulling regional actors into the sanction pressure on Russia and China. In the economic field, the West threatens countries by secondary sanctions and that is capable to have a negative impact on their trade and economic relations with Russia. There are new challenges and obstacles related to increase of transportation expenses, financial transactions.

The fact that the Global Majority countries on the whole are not inclined to in-build in the America-centered arrangement of the global politics management is being of the *key importance for the Russian foreign policy* in the environment of the constantly evolving and growing global threats generated by the policy of the Collective West. They prefer to take a neutral position as to the thrust upon them agenda and develop the dialogue with Moscow and Beijing proceeding from the sovereign understanding of national and regional interests and issues.

In this connection, one can't fail to mention that the current state of affairs presumes *the prospect of origination of a number of Russia's opportunities for strengthening this country's position on the international scene*.

First, in the environment when the United States de facto refused from the constructive continuation of work at the global projects such as fighting against climate change, strengthening of control over the armaments (including in space and cyberspace), support of the food security, regulation of local conflicts, Russia gets the opportunity to realize its historically established unique mission to support the global balance of power against this background, closely cooperating with the Global South in solving the key for it tasks. The acting Concept of the Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation for the first time determines Russia as "a distinctive civilization-state, Eurasian and Euro-Pacific power," and that serves as an important step in cultural and civilization self-determination in the order of historical continuity and restoration of the link of times, breaking-up with the tradition of Eurocentrism and establishment of a really multi-vector foreign policy.

Second, the state of affairs referring to the special military operation may assist the long-term consolidation of the Russian society allowing to boost the refocusing of the policy and economy of the country on the East, strengthening the value foundations of the Russian state. That will have a positive impact on its international positioning as well,

including the accelerated development of cooperation with partner states from BRICS and SCO.

In case of stabilization (at least partial) of the international climate and confirmation of the fundamental principles of international relations basing on polycentrism, justice, mutual respect and inseparability of security, development, new opportunities will be opened providing sustainable development of humankind.

*At the same time, it is not easy to overcome the considerable challenges to international and national security of Russia related to the hybrid war carried on by the Collective West, this will require time and concentrated efforts.* The course of the West to destroy the Russian statehood via escalation of the Ukrainian crisis emphasizes the degradation of the Western foreign policy thinking. In the environment when the United States and their allies, on the one hand, have to deal with numerous internal crises, and on the other hand, have to worry more and more about the inevitability of the loss of the dominating positions in many fields, the risk of ill-considered, adventurous decisions taken by the Collective West, capable to lead the world to World War III, increases.

In this situation, a high level of endurance and strategic vision are required from Russia. That will help to avoid the emotional reaction to Western provocations and use the taking place processes to stand up for the national interests of the Global Majority countries.

*The strategic goal of Russia* in this environment is strengthening of its status as a politically sovereign and economically independent state. This supposes, first of all, a complex provision of interests of the country's security, including adequate armed forces having a global range of action and preserving the ability to inflict an unacceptable damage to any potential enemy. The other key element is adequate socioeconomic structure in the country based on production of break-through technologies and overcoming the export-resource course of economy.

Russia's and the Eurasian Economic Union's (EAEU) turn "to the East" – to Asian countries is becoming the answer to the Western sanctions. The main priority in the environment of the sanction war is the development of the Russian and connected with it Eurasian market. The task in the establishing environment is deepening of the regional integration and creation of a renewed architecture of international economic relations with its help. In connection with that the Russia's initiative for the set-up of the Greater Eurasian Partnership (GEP) based on the mutually advantageous and mutually respectful cooperation as it was many times underlined by the President of Russia V. V. Putin, acquires special importance.

The Greater Eurasian Partnership is called for to become a guarantee of stability and prosperity over the whole continent of Eurasia taking into account the variety of the models of development, cultures and traditions of all nations. The idea of GEP is supported by the heads of states and governments in the EAEU, SCO, ASEAN countries and other organizations. The resources of regional organizations create strong opportunities in the today's international relations for the development of the political and economic interaction even in the environment of sanctions and trade limitations by a part of the global community.<sup>1</sup> The concept

<sup>1</sup> See: Кулинец Ю. В. Перспективы реализации российской инициативы Большой Евразии в новых условиях // Безопасность в Азиатско-Тихоокеанском регионе в контексте Индо-Тихоокеанской стратегии США : сб. ст. М., 2022. С. 139–153.

of the Greater Eurasian Partnership is acquiring legal, economic and social forms.

The EAEU countries can become the nucleus for the formation of the Greater Eurasian Partnership, with their domestic markets encompassing the economic space of Russia, Byelorussia, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kirgizia and uniting 184 mln people. According to expert evaluations, the Eurasian Economic Union occupies the second place in the world after the European Union in the deepness of the economic integration. The ultimate goal of this strategy is the EAEU formation as one of the important centers of the modern world's development.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the biggest in the world regional organization being the most important institution of international cooperation in the Eurasian space, acquires special importance within the framework of bringing the GEP concept into life. The SCO united a giant geographic space and more than a half of the population of the globe. The guarantee of the international and legal attractiveness of the SCO is its out-of-bloc status, openness, non-directedness against third countries or international organizations, equality and respect of sovereignty of all participants, refusal from interference into internal affairs, inadmissibility of political opposition and confrontational rivalry.<sup>2</sup>

The SCO states are also for getting rid of the US dollar dependence in trade relations, and they have approved "the roadmap" for the gradual increase of the national currencies' share in mutual settlements of payments.<sup>3</sup> The structure of the world energy market has been actively changing against the background of the anti-Russian sanctions. The SCO mutually profitable cooperation in the energy sector has a big potential and large-scale prospects, because there are both energy deliverers and energy consumers, countries-exporters and countries-importers of energy resources in the SCO. The main tasks of this organization are formation of interconnection by transport for all its members as well as energy, food and environmental security, innovations, digital transformation and green economy. The guarantee of the SCO sustainability is the all-consuming strategic partnership of the two big and important global powers – Russia and China as well as participation of India, Pakistan and Iran in it.

*Thus, a new world center ready to conduct an independent foreign policy and realize its economic interests is being formed in the Eurasian space.* At the same time, one cannot fail to take into account the fact that achievement of this goal will run across considerable geopolitical and geo-economic difficulties both on the global and regional levels. The attitude of the Collective West in the face of the United States and the European Union to any integration projects in the Eurasian space without their participation is extremely negative. Nevertheless, the integration processes in the Eurasian space are becoming more dynamic as they are in accordance with the general trend of regionalization, formation of macroregions in global economy.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Заявление главы Узбекистана в преддверии саммита ШОС в Самарканде // УзИнформ : [information portal]. URL: <http://www.uzinform.com/ru/news/20220912/51532.html> (accessed: 25.05.2023).

<sup>3</sup> «Конец диктата доллара». О чем договорились на саммите ШОС // РИА Новости : [website]. URL: <https://ria.ru/20220916/shos-1817406175.html> (accessed: 25.05.2023).

<sup>4</sup> See: Лукьянович Н. В. Перспективы евразийской экономической интеграции в контексте роста глобальных вызовов и угроз // Проблемы национальной стратегии. 2021. № 1 (64). С. 78–96.