

ISSUES OF WAR AND PEACE ARE AN ETERNAL DILEMMA OF HISTORY

In 2025, we celebrate the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. This is the 80th anniversary of the conferences of the "big three" in Yalta and Potsdam, as well as the 80th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations. The UN is still the mainstay of the Yalta-Potsdam system of international relations. This system has become the embodiment of a new global balance of power, has led to the establishment of the principle of peaceful coexistence, to a period of detente, building an architecture of arms control and strategic stability. In 1945, the powerful of this world once again in history solved the issues of war and peace, the problem of preventing a new major war. Even after the world entered the atomic age, the Yalta-Potsdam system had enough safety margin to protect the world from a direct military clash between the great powers.

Issues of war and peace are an eternal dilemma of history. In 1945, the allies in the anti-Hitler coalition managed to solve a twofold task: to victoriously end World War II and lay a fairly solid foundation for the post-war world order. Each historical period has involved the process of finding a new balance of power on a regional or global scale. At all times, politicians and diplomats have been searching for an answer to the question: what is the natural state of humanity — violence or agreements?

The Peace of Westphalia in 1648, the Congress of Vienna in 1814–1815, and the Hague Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907 became significant events on the path of such a search. In 1908–1909, the Austrian artist Gustav Klimt created the painting "The Kiss". She became one of the symbols of the "beautiful epoch", when Europe at the beginning of the 20th century looked to the future with optimism. But then Europe gave birth to the First World War. As if that wasn't enough, 20 years later, World War II broke out in the Old World.

The year 1945 had its sinister sides. Three months after the signing of the Karlshorst capitulation by the Third Reich, the United States dropped atomic bombs first on Hiroshima and then on Nagasaki. The world has entered the nuclear age. Nevertheless, it must be emphasized that the fact that a nuclear apocalypse has not

occurred since then is largely the merit of the victorious Powers. They not only defeated Nazism, fascism and Japanese militarism, but in the person of the UN they gave the world a tool for coordinating interests, which has no equal in the 21st century.

It took dozens of major international meetings and conferences to achieve this. Among them, the meetings of the "big three" in Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam, conferences in Dumbarton Oaks and San Francisco stood out. After the end of World War II, it took 30 years for a new international event to take place on a global scale — the signing of the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The world wars, as well as numerous regional conflicts after 1945, were not prevented by the Tolstoy movement or the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. But the latter, like other similar doctrines, became the forerunner of the anti-war movement in the second half of the last century, in which the USSR played a central role. The Caribbean crisis of 1962 posed a stark question: either global diplomacy prevails, or hundreds of millions of people will die. In this regard, it is important to note the work of scientists in the struggle for peace. Since 1945, the United States has been actively developing opposition to atomic weapons from world-renowned figures: Albert Einstein, Leo Szilard, Ernest Orlando Lawrence, and later Robert Oppenheimer, Frederic Joliot-Curie. In addition to classical diplomacy, scientific diplomacy has made a valuable contribution to taming the arms race. In 1955, the Manifesto of Lord Russell and Einstein was published, signed by Joliot-Curie, Born, Pauling and many other prominent personalities.

In 1957, the Pugwash movement emerged, in which Russian scientists actively participated. Academicians M. D. Millionshchikov and V. I. Goldansky were the chairmen of the Pugwash Soviet Committee. In 1960, the Dartmouth Conferences were launched, which were led by academicians G. A. Arbatov and later E. M. Primakov from the Soviet side. Academician Sakharov and the Committee of Soviet Scientists for the Defense of Peace, headed by Academician E. P. Velikhov, were engaged in large-scale peacekeeping activities.

It was Soviet experts who proved the hypothesis of a "nuclear winter" and also put forward the concept of "new thinking in a vibrant age." In the 1980s, massive anti-war demonstrations swept across Europe against the deployment of American Pershing missiles with nuclear warheads. By that time, global diplomacy, led by the Soviet Union, had achieved such fundamental successes as the prohibition of nuclear

weapons testing in three environments, the signing of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and a number of agreements on the limitation and reduction of strategic offensive arms.

The Yalta-Potsdam system of international relations has largely become a thing of the past after the end of the bipolar era. But the UN, its main element, still has no equal as a universal and universally recognized organization for the maintenance of international peace and security. The UN Charter continues to play a unique role at the core of international law. Peace conferences over the past few centuries have made an invaluable contribution to the resolution of numerous conflicts, including global ones. They will be called upon to achieve vital goals in the 21st century.

But what kind of century is this and what system of international relations will become its hallmark? It is already clear that, as before, global development will continue to be an intertwining process of integration and fragmentation. They have gone hand in hand throughout the history of human development. Their scale and impact on our lives have increased many times in the context of the deepest stage of globalization in the last four decades. Currently, it is undergoing a transition from a neoliberal model based on Western centrism to a pluralistic model based on polycentricity. Despite the fact that the term "deglobalization" has become widespread, this phenomenon has its limits. Fragmentation of the former configurations of global power centers, supply chains and value added is taking place, but in fact the world remains and will remain global. Deglobalization mainly affects the West's relations with its opponents. In another part of the world, on the contrary, globalization processes do not stop.

The modernity of international relations is determined, firstly, by the policy of "strategic decoupling" of the United States from Europe and the policy of "double containment" of the development of Russia and China. The main axis of competition in the world has become the US-Chinese confrontation. Secondly, there is a search for a new balance between the descending and ascending states, between their ideas about national security. Thirdly, within the framework of these processes, a form of multilateralism will crystallize that will determine the nature of world politics for the entire depth of the century. But it is obvious that more and more countries, especially India, are gaining the status of trans-regional players. The Persian Gulf region continues to transform into a global financial, investment and service hub. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council continue to play an important role in

international affairs. But there are already 9 States that possess nuclear weapons, and the number of "threshold" states may increase.

Due to long-term changes on a global scale, the importance of a number of research areas is growing. In China, the consumer structure and trade structure are changing under the influence of internal and external factors. In the coming years, Beijing will try to keep the economic growth rate above 4%. Relations in the Russia-India-China triangle are of great importance in the near and medium term, especially given the rapid growth in the number of BRICS member states and observer states. Much depends on whether there will be further institutionalization of this expanding association. At the same time, the United States is making efforts to establish control over strategic transport corridors, which has led to its recent interest in the Panama Canal and the Suez Canal (including through its activities in relation to the Gaza Strip). Russia promotes strategies for the development of the Northern Sea Route and the North-South corridor, while China promotes the Belt and Road initiative. How the global transport and logistics infrastructure will develop in the coming years will largely determine the parameters of the world of policing.

In general, it can be predicted that Russian-Chinese cooperation will continue to gain momentum, and the influence of the West in Eurasia will decrease. This process will not be homogeneous, as evidenced, for example, by the growing interest of the European Union in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Russia, China and India will remain the main players in the Eurasian macrospace, while Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Persian Gulf countries will increase their role. Japan and South Korea will retain their high status. In addition to issues of economic development and national security, more and more attention will be paid to the problems of climate change, migration, and water resources.

A polycentric system of international relations, as it happened with its predecessors, will solve the dilemma of war and peace, seek a new balance of power, and reassert the principle of peaceful coexistence. The novelty of this system will be combined with the reliance on the legacy of previous eras, the relevance of many of their achievements. Among the latter, the United Nations will continue to fulfill its unique function. Classical diplomacy and its scientific variety will remain indispensable components of peace-building. The 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the end of World War II, and the creation of the UN reminds us of the vital need to use the experience of the past, take the best from it, and look for

ways to defuse international tension again. The most important imperative will remain the prevention of a third world war, a direct military clash between the nuclear Powers. For this, it will be necessary to stop the degradation of the arms control system and supplement it with new content that meets the challenges of multipolarity.