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## **DEMOCRACY IN THE CONTEMPORARY SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: WAYS OF DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING**

Democracy in the broad sense of the word is the optimal order of relations between people in all spheres of public life. In international relations, democracy is no less important than within countries.

*The Universal Declaration of Democracy*, adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1997, calls for Democracy to be regarded as an international principle by which States should be guided in their relations among themselves and with international organizations. The principle of International Democracy means not only equal relations, but also an equal voice of Peoples and States, regardless of their size and capabilities.

The principles of democracy should be guided by the international regulation of problems of a global nature and the common heritage of mankind, especially the problems of its habitat. International Democracy also means that the behavior of all States must comply with the norms of international law developed democratically. All Peoples and States should equally refrain from the use of force or the threat of force, as well as from any behavior that endangers or violates the sovereignty, political or territorial integrity of other States, or harms the ecosystem.

Democracy presupposes the equal participation of all peoples in the development of norms of international law, the abstention of States from destructive behavior in their relations, solidarity with all democratic forces in the world that guard human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

True and interested cooperation is possible only under the condition of equality of all peoples, with their mutually benevolent relations with each other.

The right of peoples to self-determination has become one of the defining directions of the world development in the XX century. The *Declaration of Human and Peoples' Rights*, adopted in Russia after the October Revolution, and the message of US President W. Wilson to Congress in January 1918 served as important impetus to this. The world's largest states, whose leaders' behavior is a source of all kinds of conflicts and rivalry among themselves, competing with each other, declaring other sovereign countries zones of their strategic interests, inciting some countries and peoples against others, play the role of opponents and destroyers of all peoples' cooperation.

To avoid this, no state should pretend to be the supreme judge of the planet with the right to determine what is right and what is wrong, what is "protection of democracy" and what is interference in the internal affairs of other peoples and countries and impose its will on them.

The ideas of equality and equity of peoples were thoroughly substantiated by T. Jefferson. But, unfortunately, having advanced to the number of the strongest states in the world, the leaders of the United States have forgotten the ideas and precepts of their "founding fathers".

### *Democratization as a trend in international relations*

Democratization as a trend of the global political process means the transition of most countries of the modern world to democratic regimes, contributing to a change in world politics and international relations, reducing the level of conflict in them.

Modern opponents of the theory of democratic peace argue that democratic states can wage wars for the spread of democracy, which does not reduce, but even increases the level of international conflict. Such wars discredit the ideology of the democratic world and lead to the rejection of democratic models. The state of war moves away from the democratic path not only the States to which the democratic model is supposed to be extended, but also the States themselves that claim to be a "democratic model" (for example, in the face of a terrorist threat).

It is possible to identify a number of general trends characteristic of modern international relations:

- 1) the discrediting of liberalism as the universal basis of social and political development as a result of the economic crises of the end of 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries
- 2) aggravation of inter civilizational contradictions in the 2000s, causing rejection by the non-Western civilizations of the main attributes of the Western civilization
- 3) significant restriction of rights and freedoms in a number of countries, including Western democracies as a reaction to terrorism and the problem of immigrants
- 4) economic growth in a number of states recognized as authoritarian
- 5) the formation of an unfavorable international context for the development of democracy as a result of the unilateral policy of the United States to spread democracy, causing a backlash, the emergence of international organizations, which combine efforts to counter the destabilization of political regimes.

Therefore, from the point of view of an increasing number of researchers, the international context of democratization should change qualitatively. It should take into account the cultural and civilizational specifics of the political development of the non-Western countries, which forces a different assessment of the democracy state in these countries (in accordance with the internal logic of their transformations, and not from the point of view of the Western ideas about democracy). An important condition is the removal of international tension around the issues of democratization of non-Western countries, the rejection of the democratic model's imposition. A number of researchers believe that the successful continuation of democratic development requires the democratization of the decision-making process at the international level, the rejection of unilateral actions or the substitution of UN decisions by actions of organizations of a limited format (NATO, EU).

As a result, democratization can be considered as a trend of global development, which at the moment is at the center of serious contradictions and even conflicts. It is necessary to distinguish between the objective trend of democratization and the strategy of spreading democracy, often implemented by violent means in the modern world. It is also necessary to take into account the diversity of national cultural and historical forms of democratic experience and assess the general trend of

democratization, taking into account national-state conditions and the possibilities of maturing democratic institutions.

In modern international political science, it is noted that international processes are increasingly characterized by the term "turbulence", meaning crisis, difficult-to-predict political upheavals. Thus, the global financial and economic crisis of 2008-2009 was assessed as a crisis of globalization, including the inability of existing political and regulatory mechanisms to manage the increasingly complex financial and economic processes. Modern political transits, which begin under democratic slogans, more often lead to a political crisis and prolong destabilization of the situation in states, distancing them from the democratic path.

Democratization is observed in all countries, regardless of the type of political regime prevailing in them. The phenomenon of progressive politicization of the masses, which everywhere demand access to information, participation in decisions concerning them, improvement of their material well-being and quality of life, is becoming widespread worldwide. The achievements of the post-industrial revolution, which makes possible the almost instantaneous dissemination and receipt of the necessary information on almost all issues of interest to a modern man, have become signs of the daily life of people not only in economically developed countries, but are also becoming increasingly widespread throughout the world.

### *Conclusion*

The modern trends in international relations are based on the concept of the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which will become the basis of international initiatives aimed at promoting the formation of a new culture of peace, with a common foundation of a universal system of values and a model of behavior of participants in international relations.

The new culture of peace denies the rationality of wars and armed conflicts, orients the world community to create a system of international relations in which every State would have an equal degree of security, and every person would have guarantees of rights and freedoms. The concept of the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be the product of joint creative activity of governments, political parties and social movements, the scientific community, cultural and religious figures. Only in conditions of broad and comprehensive interaction of all those who care about the fate of humanity, it will be possible to thoroughly analyze the challenges, risks and threats that individual countries and the entire world community have faced in modern conditions, and on this basis develop principles for the formation of a "collective potential" through which the world community will counteract these challenges, risks and threats.

International relations in the era of globalization are changing their character, structure and essence. Their character has changed historically - from the "balance of power" of the early and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to the "balance of interests" at its end, to the subsequent "community of interests", without which it is impossible to imagine the future. The structure of international relations has been enriched by new actors challenging the authority and influence of traditional states and intergovernmental organizations (i.e., the Shanghai Cooperation Organization or BRICS).