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INDO-PAKISTANI CONFLICT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PROBLEM OF REGIONAL SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Abstract: The article discusses military-political problems in the Middle East region, issues of relations between India and Pakistan. The political and strategic interests of the countries of the region are revealed. The causes of the military confrontation of the two countries in the historical, territorial, confessional and military aspects are analyzed. Also the article informs about the military doctrines of India and Pakistan, the relationship of which largely determines the balance forces in South Asia and are characterized by high levels of tension news and mutual distrust. The parties throughout the period since 1947 consider each other as the main potential opponents, which largely affects the strategic thinking of New Delhi and Islamabad. After conducting nuclear tests, the confrontation reached a new level, and the state of bilateral relations causes reasonable concern of the world community, taking into account the ongoing mutual shelling and the next round of tension growth in a chronically unstable Jammu and Kashmir. Despite aggressive rhetoric, parties not ready for a full-scale war, and hostilities will be local and short-lived.

Key words: India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, modern threats, nuclear weapons, terrorism, Kashmir conflict, military-political leadership.

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Introduction.

The military-political situation in the region of the Middle East is currently of great interest to the entire world community. Such attention to the region is due to several factors:

- the place and role of Islam in the society of the countries of the region, which in recent years has been of particular importance due to its politicization;
- the greatest danger of the Middle East in concentration of threats of nuclear weapons (NW);
- the problem of deploying the largest supporting bases of international terrorism in the states of the region.

One of the unresolved issues of military confrontation in the Middle East region is the smoldering Indo-Pakistani conflict.

The main cause of the conflict between the two countries was the territorial dispute over the ownership of the Kashmir region.

As a result of the war of 1947-1949, India gained control over about 2/3 of the region, the rest went to Pakistan. The Kashmir conflict has led to tensions between the two countries, which generally remain unchanged. However, the roots of this confrontation were still created before the separation of India and Pakistan. The British, using the principle of "divide and conquer" in the 20th century, placed Hindu rulers over the Muslim population, thereby sowing the seeds of fierce hostility between the future successors of British power in the subcontinent - India and Pakistan.

Immediately after the Second World War, when the imminent withdrawal of the colonial administration from the then still united British India became almost obvious, the question arose of the future coexistence of adherents of the two main religions of India - Hinduism and Islam. It should be noted that the sign of religion was one of the most effective tools of British colonial administration,

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carried out in accordance with the old, well-known principle of "divide and conquer." In particular, the legislative elections in India in the 30s and 40s were held for chickens, formed depending on confessional affiliation.

This confessional principle, so supported by London, greatly fueled the historical contradictions that existed between Muslims and Hindus from medieval times.

For centuries, India has been a dream country for the English capitalists. The dream was predatory, the British wanted to get to her treasures. The British themselves had nothing to offer to India. Her farm, although lagging behind English in mass production technologies, possessed a variety of craft methods and produced a large number of quality goods. In terms of the absolute size of the economy, India, given its huge population, occupied the first or second place in the world - together with China.

On this occasion, important notes in their studies were noted by the Russian researcher-geographer A. E. Snesev. "... Clarification of the essence of the Central Asian question," he wrote, "boils down to elucidating the significance of India for the British and their relationship to this country and from here, in my opinion, to the development and justification of such provisions.

1. India is a country of immense natural wealth and is for Britain not only the most valuable asset, but also the main pillar of its glory and power, why, naturally, this colony should cause a number of worries and measures on the part of the British to keep it behind the metropolis.

2. The British government of India is a predatory-trade administration of foreigners who consider their people to be a race lower in mental, moral and physical relations. As a result of this system, disrespect and hatred of the natives for the victors is created, which made the liberation of the country from the British yoke an object of ardent desires for the best part of the native society. On the other hand, the consciousness of one's untruth, unpopularity and complete distrust of the natives makes the British nervous and suspicious, and this fact adds to the care of India a lot of element of instability and cruelty".

A. E. Snesev, as we see, notes the enormous economic importance of the exploitation of India and its resources for the British Empire, very expressively characterizes the hostile relations that developed between the colonialists and the enslaved peoples. The following presentation concretizes and discloses both of these provisions. The history of the assertion of British dominance in India and the wild looting of this country is convincingly illustrated by the colossal numbers of money that were seized there by the invaders, to some extent ensured the industrial revolution in England, and then the rapid prosperity of

its economy and its transformation into a "workshop of the world".

The Indo-Pakistani military conflict is perhaps the most dangerous place in the list of modern threats to humanity. A particular danger in the confrontation between these two states of the Middle East region was acquired when both India and Pakistan, having carried out a series of nuclear tests, demonstrated their ability to create nuclear weapons. Thus, the military confrontation in this region became the second hotbed of nuclear deterrence in the entire world history (after the cold war between the USSR and the USA).

By some estimates, both states have set themselves the goal (or perhaps have already achieved it) of bringing the number of nuclear munitions from 80 to 200 on each side. If applied, this is enough for an environmental disaster to cast doubt on the survival of not only the region of the Middle East, but the whole of humanity. The causes of the conflict and the bitterness with which it can develop both in the past and in the future, suggests that such a threat may well be real.

First, the territory of Afghanistan for the Pakistani military-political leadership is a sphere of geopolitical influence. Islamabad perceives Afghanistan as a "rear zone", and Pakistan will make every effort to maintain this status. Secondly, the military-political leadership of Pakistan sees Afghanistan as its reserve strategic resource. First of all, as an operational space where irregular forces, non-governmental organizations and terrorist groups acting in the interests of Pakistan in the Middle East region can be deployed. Third, Afghanistan provides strategic depth for Pakistan. Indeed, a regime loyal to Islamabad in Afghanistan can provide operational space for maneuver and regrouping in the event of a military conflict with India. Afghanistan is extremely strategically important for the Pakistani authorities in the event of a military-military confrontation with India. As noted above, one of the problems of the region is the deployment of the largest support bases of international terrorism in the states of the region.

The problem of terrorism in India and Pakistan is one of the brightest examples of how modern terrorist groups operate and what goals they pursue. For more than 60 years, there has been a conflict between India and Pakistan due to improper demarcation during the division of the territory of the former British India. In this conflict, contradictions of an interstate and ethno-confessional nature are unusually intertwined, and in recent years the most frightening and painful problems for the modern segment of the history of mankind have been strongly manifested, related to the increase in the activity of organizations of an extremist and terrorist nature. That is why it will be advisable to explore the relationship between the two countries.

Almost two centuries of British colonization had a huge impact on the formation and development of

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Indian civilization. India was a very strong and highly developed state before the advent of the British. But after colonization, the British rebuilt the country's economy for their own benefit, while undermining the local infrastructure and hampering the distinctive development of the Indian state. Another British innovation was the new administrative structure of the Indian government, which over time turned into a huge bureaucratic system, which affected the emergence of corruption and red tape in the country.

Kashmir is located in the zone of instability, in the area of residence of different nationalities, which are the cause of these eternal confrontations. Everlasting tension, the distrust of two states towards each other can cause a new conflict. And these potential conflicts should be given special attention, since these two countries possess nuclear. Both states conducted underground nuclear tests at the end of the twentieth century and then officially announced this. And the fact that the two countries possessing nuclear weapons are constantly in conflict is a subject of excitement not only for the region, but for the whole world.

Given the likely scenario of a military conflict with the use of nuclear weapons and depending on the winds and rivers, the territories of all countries of South Asia, as well as China, Myanmar, Afghanistan and other Central Asian states, will be exposed to radioactive contamination of the area.

The Kashmir issue is not only a territorial issue, as it was before. Now the problem of Kashmir's affiliation for both India and Pakistan is an important factor in the realization of foreign and domestic political interests. Both Delhi and Islamabad very cunningly use this situation in accordance with their domestic political interests. For Pakistan, the territory of Kashmir has moral and ethical significance: Pakistan cannot leave its co-religionists oppressed by India in trouble.

Now this conflict is not significant for world powers. This issue is being discussed in relation to the problem of terrorism and extremism, the threat of which exists in this region. Russia, USA, China, countries of Western Europe are united in their vision of the situation in Kashmir. The world community believes that the dispute should be resolved by peaceful means on a bilateral basis without outside interference.

The Kashmir situation has escalated from year to year. One reason for this trend was that extremist and terrorist groups flourished in Kashmir. And this state of affairs was used to incite not only the anti-Indian opposition, but also the religious struggle. The separatist attitude of the population posed a huge threat to the state integrity of India, and the government was afraid that they might lose not only Kashmir, but other parts of the country would begin to think about secession. A huge impact on the

development of the conflict had various extremist groups.

After the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, the residents of Kashmir, who returned home after a long absence, brought with them new Islamic ideas and began to implement them. And as a result of this, Kashmir becomes one of the main centers of radical Islamism, and Kashmir separatism acquires the characteristics of radical Islamism.

Terrorism and extremism in Kashmir are a serious threat to the security of the entire Asian region. And this trend will continue to influence the development of the situation in the region.

Of particular note is the problem of drug terrorism.

Drug trafficking as a source of financing military operations was used back in the period of the Mujahideen's struggle with the USSR troops. The forces supporting the Afghan patriots did not pay attention to the growing drug trafficking. And even after the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, the situation has not changed at all. And they turned a blind eye to this only because the proceeds of the drug trade were used to finance various operations of extremist organizations in Indian territory. The aforementioned Josef Bodansky many times described how Pakistan finances terrorists in India using the profits from the drug trade created precisely after the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Terrorism has spread very much throughout the region, including India and Pakistan. This territory has been considered a "hot spot" for 50 years, although the severity of these dangers has always depended on time and political tension. And the problem of the spread of these attacks was not only in the struggle of Muslims and Indians, but in the confrontation between government forces and national liberation groups in various regions of India and Pakistan, which fought for independence.

And the reason is that in Pakistan in recent years, groups that are extremely extremist are gaining weight. Pakistan is also constantly criticized by other members of the world community due to its indecision on the issues of combating international terrorism and religious extremism (Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, China, the USA, etc.). And all these countries are either asking for the hiding terrorists or are accused of training militants in Pakistan. Pakistan was repeatedly considered by the United States as a "candidate" for inclusion in the list of terrorist states for permanent threats to American interests in this country by Islamic radicals and inadequate perception by Islamabad of US concerns about the base of the functionaries of the terrorist organization Al-Qaeda in neighboring Afghanistan. For this reason, the country's leadership is so indecisive in anti-terrorism actions, because Pakistan must act both in the interests of the opposition and world countries.

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But it should be noted that Islamabad does not join one of the key documents of international anti-terrorism law - the 1999 Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, because the signing of this convention will entail a number of negative consequences both for the country's economy and for the general situation.

A characteristic feature of the current stage of the Kashmir "settlement" is that the issue of the territorial affiliation of Kashmir is losing its paramount importance in the bilateral relations of Delhi and Islamabad. Today, the main goal for India is not so much resolving the Kashmir issue as strengthening and building trust between the two countries, as well as curbing and completely eradicating cross-border terrorism from Pakistan. Islamabad traditionally considers its task to finally resolve the dispute as the basis for the future normalization of relations with New Delhi, accuses India of massive violations of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir and makes a statement supporting the "struggle of the Kashmir people for self-determination."

Unlike Pakistan, India does not have any problems with the ideals of the internal structure of state policy; there is a consensus there regarding the pluralistic, secular and democratic nature of the country. But India has not yet decided what role it is destined for in the world.

If India is to be on a par with world powers on a global scale, it needs to cross the regional framework, showing "nobility" to its neighbours, and to Pakistan in the first place. It should not try to defeat Pakistan by military means, but should seek peace and cooperation with it, as well as with Bangladesh and Afghanistan. At the same time, Delhi understands that the creation of a "great and prosperous India" is possible only on the basis of technological breakthrough and high economic development.

We must not forget about the emergence of "irreconcilable" rivals a number of common goals and interests in the field of security, trade, economic and international cooperation. Of great importance in the context of resolving the conflict is the cooperation between the two states in the field of energy, in the implementation of projects for the construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to India through Pakistan, as well as the trans-Afghan gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan and India. Moreover, this is the fight against drug trafficking and smuggling, as well as against violations of the land and sea borders.

Despite the possible destabilization and in the future, the emergence of a new crisis in relations between India and Pakistan, the trends in the

development of the situation in the short term are favorable. The conflict seems to have moved from an acute phase to a chronic one. And even the problem of Jammu and Kashmir can in principle be resolved in the context of growing mutual trust and cooperation between states and refusal to impose final decisions on each other, which has recently been undertaken by the countries of the region and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (ShCO).

From the point of view of national security, India and Pakistan could offer them the following nuclear disarmament program for the next 10 years:

1) On a reciprocal basis, refuse to deploy nuclear forces, and if this proposal is removed from the agenda due to uncontrolled events and processes, then agree to the establishment of "ceilings" for the deployment of nuclear forces, limitations on the range of ballistic missiles, and a ban on the introduction of new types of ballistic missiles and possibly a ban on new basing methods;

2) To reduce the threat of a preemptive attack by each side by conventional forces by mutually reducing the level of conventional weapons located in the border zone in peacetime, and also to limit the conduct of military exercises, excluding from them much of what has been included in it in recent years - in particular, development of skills of a sudden invasion, which requires a fairly high status of combat readiness in peacetime;

3) To agree to international technical monitoring of the implementation of confidence-building measures and the prevention of a nuclear crisis and to send a joint invitation to authorized UN or other international institutions acceptable to both parties; such monitoring is clearly necessary at present to restore the status of the Indo-Pakistan agreement of 1991 on limiting airspace violations and to implement new measures to prevent crises in the border zone;

4) Conduct a joint study of the regional criteria to limit the commissioning of new destabilizing weapons and measures to combat international terrorists operating in the region;

5) The consent of both countries to the dissemination of full IAEA safeguards for all their nuclear activities;

6) Accession of India and Pakistan to the CTBT and NPT;

7) Clear coordination of their actions and cooperation in the field of preventing nuclear proliferation in South Asia by Russia and the United States with the aim of influencing the positions of India and Pakistan on this issue.

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