

# Main Tendencies in the International Politics in the XXI Century

Nika CHITADZE \*

## Abstract

The paper explores main characters of the International Relations in the beginning of XXI Century. Particularly, there are analyzed some historic aspects of International politics, nature and typology of International Politics according to the point of view of the different scientists, new tendencies of International Relations.

**Keywords:** developed and developing states, international politics, national interest, states

## Introduction

Till the modern period, by the authorities of the different countries - politics was considered as a such field of activity, where its subjects are the individuals, social groups, parties, movements, pursuing individual and group interests. However, independent states are not developing in a vacuum, they interact with each other and on the higher - international level. At the level of international politics the national and state interests are appeared. In this regard, during the discussion about International Politics of the states, there is a need to take into consideration not only the economic, social etc. but also impacts of the global factors. In the framework of the modern conditions, the growing role of the global factors in international politics (the accumulated potential of nuclear, chemical and biological - weapons of mass destruction, environmental, energy, food issues, the fight against AIDS, international terrorism, etc.) sharply raised the question of the survival and progress of the mankind. The degree of the relationship and interaction of the various states in the modern world is so great, that no one of them can implement its policy by the ignoring the interests of the International community. However, realization of the interests of one state often encounters on the national interests of the other states and the result of it is the emergence of international conflicts, which are still predominantly settled by war. So, for the last 55 Centuries, humanity has lived in the peace only during the 300 years period. Throughout those centuries there were 14.5 Thousand wars (including two world wars - 1914 - 1918 and 1939 - 1945). As the result of those wars, more than 3.6 billion people were killed. During the past 40 years, the world population was involved into war for the 250 times and in those wars 90 states participated and their losses amounted more than 35 million people. The infamous aphorism "the history of mankind – is a history of wars" raises questions about the nature and content of the international

policy, as it affects the internal politics of the states (Mukhaev, 2000).

## Politics and International Relations

### International Relations and International Politics

Before the determination the nature of the international politics and its main differences from the domestic, as well as to identify the nature of their relationship, it is necessary to understand how the terminologies "international relations" and "foreign policy" are related to each other.

Taking into account, that the situation in the World is constantly changing, the contents of those terminologies do not remain unchanged. This is the fact, that if in the beginning of the XX century there were only 52 independent states in the World, by the mid-century, they have been 82, but today their number exceeds 200 (Mukhaev, 2000.). All these states and nations interact with each other in various spheres of the human life. Primarily in international relations theory, to describe the interaction between sovereign states the term "foreign policy" was used. However today, the international community does not consist only independent states, but there are also a variety of economic, trade, military alliances, blocks and structures that have developed on a bilateral or multilateral basis. Besides of them, in the international arena are active such institutions, as the United Nations, also international governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the specialized agencies and organizations, which are involved in politics, social and economic development, security and disarmament issues etc. All of them are the subjects of international relations. Consequently, international relations represent a system of economic, political, social, diplomatic, legal, military and cultural relations and interactions that occur between the subjects of the international

\* Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.  
E-mail: nchitadze@ibsu.edu.ge

community. Obviously, not all relationships between the people and government organizations are political by their nature. However, due to the expansion of the number of subjects of international relations - in political science, along with the term "foreign policy" was used the term "International politics".

**International politics** is at the core of international relations and represents itself the political activity of the subjects of international law (states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, unions, etc.), which is related with the issues of war and peace, providing global security, protection of the environment, overcoming the backwardness and poverty, hunger and disease. Thus, international policy is oriented on the issues of survival and progress of human society, development of the mechanisms to coordinate the interests of the subjects of world politics, the prevention and resolution of global and regional conflicts, the creation of a fair world order. It is an important factor of stability and peace, development of the equitable international relations.

### The Nature of the International Politics

International politics is the most important part of international relations, it is able to ensure progress and development. But why humanity most of the time spent in wars and not in the peace? For the answering on this question it is necessary to identify the nature of international politics. The analysis of this problem is impossible without understanding the relationship between foreign and domestic policy.

In the modern political science, there are at least three points of view on the problem of the relationship between domestic and foreign policy. Supporters of the first point of view, try to find connections between two fields of policy. So, Professor of the University of Chicago, Morgenthau believes that "the essence of international politics is identical to the internal politics. And both - internal and foreign policy is a struggle for dominance, which is modified only by various conditions, which are formulated in the domestic and international spheres. (Morgenthau, H.J. 1948) The second point of view is represented by the scientific works of the Austrian sociologist L. Gumilovich (1833 - 1909), who believed that foreign policy determines the internal one (Mukhaev, 2000). Considering the struggle for existence as the main factor of social life, L. Gumilovich formulated a system of laws in international politics, among of them the most important - the law of the constant fighting between the neighboring countries due to the boundary line. Based on this law the scientist deduced the second law which includes the fact, that any State should prevent the strengthening the power of a neighbor and take care on the balance of power. In addition, any state is committed to profitable acquisitions, for example, to get access to the sea for the reaching to be a sea power. Finally, the meaning of the third law is expressed in the fact that the internal political objectives should be subordinated to the purpose of the strengthening the military power,

with the help of which is ensured the survival of the state.

The third point of view on the problem of the relationship of the internal and external policies is presented by Marxism, according to which foreign policy is determined by the internal and is the reflection and continuation of society's relationship. The content of the latter is determined by the dominating in the society economic relations and the interests of the ruling classes. Obviously, that in the each points of view the rational grain is existed. However, we should notice, that the real domination of foreign or domestic policy depends in each case on the specific historical circumstances.

The essence of international politics is also differently understood in political science. Thus, proponents of "power" concept consider the politics as the struggle for dominance. "International politics, like any other, - mentions H. Morgethau - is a struggle for dominance (Morgenthau H.J., 1948). Whatever are the absolute goals of the international politics, the power is always the immediate aim". "Power" and "Force" represents the base of politics, according to the scientist, the result of it is the inherent human desire for dominance. This is the beginning and determines the behavior of the states. In this case, concretely political force Morgenthau classifies as "psychological relations among of them, who posses it, and between them, who feels its influence". (Mukhaev R., 2000)

However, it seems that the importance of psychological factors in international politics, is clearly exaggerated by the supporters of this concept.

Another, quite common, is the statement about the biological nature of international politics. "The Inevitability" of political aggressiveness of the states by authors is explained by the "innate aggressiveness" of man, the "natural instinct" is "to kill with the help weapons." According to the remark of the modern French scholar G. Butula, "the international authority of the state is measured by its ability to cause damage." (Mukhaev R., 2000)

Psychological and biological interpretation of the essence of international politics is opposed by the understanding it as a social phenomenon, which is determined by the influence of its economic, social, cultural and other factors. But importance of psychological and personal factors in international politics, of course, should be taken into consideration. The objectives of foreign policy are determined every time by the specific context of the concrete historical situations, where the international community is situated, also by the nature of the relations existing between the states. In the framework of the context, in which the external factors influence on the living conditions of a particular state, they also determine the content of international politics. Under the modern conditions, it is increased the impact of such factors, as energy and raw materials (resource) problems; the growing gap in living standards between developed and developing countries; the distribution of the nuclear weapons; worsening the global environmental problems, the

growth of international terrorism, etc.

## Content and Principles of International Politics

The content of International politics cannot be explained without an analysis of the national interest. In fact, what drives the activities of the state in the international arena, on behalf of what one country enters into relations with the other countries? In politics, there are always expressed the common or group interests and mainly national interests in case of international politics. **National interest** – represents the awareness and reflection in the activities of the leaders of the states of in the field of indigenous needs of the nation state. Those requirements are expressed in national security and at the conditions for the survival and development of the society. The concept of “national interest” was developed by Hans Morgenthau. He defined the concept of interest in terms of the categories of power. He determined the understanding of the national interest with the help of the category of power. In his concept meaning national interests includes three elements: 1) the nature of the interest that must be protected; 2) the political environment in which the interest is in action; 3) rational necessity, which limits the choice of targets and the means for all subjects of international politics (Rondeli A., 2003).

The foreign policy of an independent state, according to Morgenthau, should be based on the physical, political and cultural reality that helps to understand the nature and essence of the national interest. By this reality is represented the nation. All the nations of the world in the international arena seek to meet their primary needs, namely the need to physically survive. In the divided into blocs and alliances world where the fighting for power and resources is not stopped, all nations concerned about the protection of their physical, political, and cultural identity in the face of invasion from outside (Morgenthau. H.J., 1948).

Perhaps, this statement was relevant for the “Cold War” period, when the international community was divided into two opposing camps: the socialist and capitalist. In the modern world, where the “cold war” seems to be over and the countries for various reasons are becoming more and more interdependent and interrelated, their survival and development can be achieved only with the full cooperation and collaboration.

Any state, defending its own national interest, should respect and take into account the interests of the other states, only in this case it can not only ensure their own safety, but do not violate the security of other states. National security means the situation, when the vital interests of the individual, society and the state are protected from the internal and external threats; also it means the ability of the state to preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to be presented as the subject of international law. The notion of security for the individual, society and the state does not always coincide with each other. Human se-

curity means an integral implementation of its rights and freedoms. For the safety of the society the security includes the preserving and multiplication of it material and spiritual values. National security in relation to the state assumes internal stability, reliable defense, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

In our days, when the danger of nuclear war still exists, national security is an integral part of overall security. Until recently, the Global Security was based on the principles of “deterrence by intimidation”, confrontation and tensions between the nuclear powers (USSR, USA, France, UK and China). But to get universal security is impossible. It is impossible to provide security on the expense of the interests of the other states, it can only be achieved on the principles of partnership and cooperation. The turning point in the formation of a new system of global security was the recognition by the international community the impossibility of the survival and gaining victory in the global nuclear war.

## Theory and Practice of International Relations

### Typology of International Relations

Relations between the states on the international arena have never been equal. The role of each state was determined by their economic, technological, military, information capabilities. Those capabilities provide the nature and type of the international relations system. Typology of international relations has its practical importance, because it allows identifying the global factors affecting the development as a global community, also the concrete countries.

There is classification of international relations, based on the chronological principle. For example, U.S. researchers Dr. Modalsky and Dr. P. Morgan, during the consideration the historical process in terms of dominance in them different “world powers” and the character formed by its “global system”, divided the history of international relations on the certain cycles (Modalsky G., 1978). According to this point of view, beginning from the XV century and till now the history of international relations is divided into five cycles, during of which alternately ruled the four “great powers”: Portugal, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. The fifth cycle, which, according to the authors, started in 1914, they named as the “American century.” One of the supporters of this concept American political scientist R. Cox defines the meaning of “world hegemony” by the following style: “The hegemony on a global level – is not just the order between states. This is the order within the world economy with a dominant mode of production, which reaches into every country and puts itself in the dependence of the other means of production. It is also a complex of the international social relations that links the social classes of different countries. The global hegemony can be described as social, economic, or as a political structure, but it cannot be just one of them, but it is the combination of all three issues. Moreover, the global hegemony is expressed in universal terms,

institutions and mechanisms, which establish common rules of action for the States and civil society beyond the national borders - the rules of which support the dominant method of production." (Mukhaev, 2000) Other authors as the basis of typology of international relations use the balance of power and the nature of the relations, which are developing between its participants. American scholar M. Kaplan respectively distinguishes six types of international systems: the system of "balance of power", free bipolar system, a rigid bipolar system, the universal system, the hierarchical system and a system of "veto". For example, in the "balance of power" system key actors in international relations are only nation-states with large military and economic capabilities, and the robust system is that one, that includes five or more states (Kaplan M. A., 1957).

It seems that together with the all advantages that exist in these classifications, they suffer with a one disadvantage – they are speculative. The history of international relations has always reflected the balance of power and capacities of the individual concrete countries during the implementation of the national interests. Depending from the concentration of power and resources in the hands of one country or distributing them among a group of countries, international political relations knew one subject of the world politics – superpower, or a group of such entities - developed countries, which were in competition with each other. In the early stages of the history, international relations were characterized by the presence of a superpower that has dominated over other states because of its military power, economic potential, psychological cohesion within the concrete regions. As an examples of such superpowers can be presented Ancient Egypt, Persia, Ancient China, Ancient India, etc. Those superpowers were arising or falling during the different period of the history. Entrance to the international arena in the XVII - XVIII centuries at the same period the powers, which were in rivalry with each other, transferred the international relations in the more complex and conflict system. The struggle for the resources has led to the fact that in world politics the politico-military block principle becomes dominant. The world was divided into two poles. This is especially clearly manifested in the early XX century, when the two blocks were formed: the Entente (Britain, France, Russia) and the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey).

After the October Bolshevik military coup in Russia in 1917, the bipolarity of the world politics remained, but in this case these poles become socialist and capitalist systems (Ideological poles). After the ending of World War II, The power of these systems was represented by the Soviet Union and the United States - the two superpowers, in whose hands, after 1945, a nuclear weapon was appeared. Opposing systems entered in a period of "cold war" and held back the development of each other by building up its military strength. The whole world was divided into spheres of "vital interests " of the two superpowers, which relied

on politico-military blocks - NATO (1949), led by the United States and the Warsaw Pact (1955), headed by the Soviet Union. Other states in the world just were following the foreign policy of a superpowers.

In 1991, when "Cold War" ended and with this process the bipolar model of international relations was over, accordingly the confrontation between NATO and Warsaw Treaty also finished. From the political and security point of view, the world has become unipolar with the dominance of USA, and multi-polar from the economic point of view. In the modern period, the states coexist with diverse interests who seek to realize their interests predominantly by peaceful means having different capabilities and resources - the states large and small, rich and poor, nuclear and non-nuclear.

### **Features of the Present Stage of International Relations**

Contemporary international relations are in a stage of the transition from confrontation and conflict, based on nuclear deterrence, to a new world order based on a partnership for peace. However, to implement this change in practice is very difficult. New mechanisms that could ensure stability and global security, are only emerging. There is still mistrust and prejudice in the relations to the recent "enemies" and now partners. Significant funds continue to be spent on the arms race. For example, military spending worldwide in recent years accounted for 1,000 billion dollars a year, more than half of world scientists are working on new types of weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, 800 million people in the world live in absolute poverty and among the 500 million hungry people around 50 million die every year from malnutrition (Mukhaev R., 2000). The current stage of international relations is characterized by increasing interdependence and interrelation of members of the international community. This is due to the fact that the survival and development of mankind can only be achieved through joint efforts of all states. Global problems which confronted mankind (prevention of nuclear war, end the arms race, the peaceful settlement of inter-state and inter-ethnic conflict, poverty alleviation, economic, commodity and food crises, create a healthy living environment, etc.), can be solved only combining the capabilities and resources of the entire world community.

The New World Order is based on principles - such as democratization, demilitarization, humanization of partnerships, regardless of the capabilities and size of a particular state.

### **New Trends in the Development of Modern International Relations**

Taking into account, how the international relations in the coming years should be developed, largely depends on the way in which the world will enter at the

next decades of the XXI century. For this reason, scientists intend to discover the peculiarities of the current state and development of international relations in order to identify new trends of their changes.

Thus, the modern American scientists M. Singer and A. Vildavsky mark the separation of the world into two parts - a zone of peace, prosperity and democracy and the zone of war, fermentation and development. Most of the people, according to the authors, live in areas of fermentation, which is dominated by poverty, anarchy and tyranny. In the area of peace, prosperity and democracy there are included about 30 countries: the countries of Western Europe, the U.S., Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. In those countries lives about 15% of the world population. These areas are characterized as rich democracies, in which the standard of living of ordinary citizens by historical standards is very high (from 10 thousand to 30 thousand dollars of annual consumption per capita of the gross national product) and life expectancy - at least 74 years (Mukhaev R., 2000). This prosperity of the countries can only be achieved thanks to the high-quality knowledge-based economy.

Today, the post-industrial economics are characterized by the use of computers, electronic communications and information technology. High technology pushed forward the concepts of such determinations, as flexibility and creativity, pushing into the background mass and power. Here, success is determined by the ability to negotiate, financing and trade and to build highly adaptive and efficient production. The surest way to success, persuasion rather than coercion. In terms of quality of the economy the people themselves and not things become the main value. It follows that it is unwise to sacrifice people in the name of conquering territories and sources of raw materials, as people are more valuable than those acquisitions.

Not all the arguments of the authors of this concept can be agreed without reservation. So, it should be recognized that wealthy, democracy and peace are inextricably linked to each other, although this rule has exceptions. It is enough to notice, that there are 8 oil-rich countries (countries from the Persian Gulf Region) in the World, with a population of 1 million each (Mukhaev R., 2000). They are called "rich", but their wealth is not due to the high productivity of their people and it is not associated with democracy. On the other hand, half a dozen small countries that have become rich without oil or other natural resources, are democratic.

An alternative point of view on the development of the modern international relations is presented by the previously mentioned American sociologist Francis Fukuyama, author of the concept of "the end of the history." He believes, that in the XXI century world would enter divided into two parts, developed the "center" and forever backward "periphery." Naturally, the "center" represent the industrialized countries of the West and a backward "periphery" - states of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the former Soviet republics and Eastern countries Thus, Fukuyama is trying to prove

conclusive, from his point of view, the benefits of a liberal civilization, their exclusive right to "make history." The task of the "periphery" - deliver to the "center" the energy resources and act as a dumping ground for toxic waste. In return to this, the developed countries will deliver to the backward state humanitarian aid. Thus, according to Fukuyama, the stability in the international relations will be achieved (Chitadze N., 2011). It seems that Fukuyama overestimates the level of development and degree of integration between western countries and states - which are opposing the further enlargement of the western civilization. In this case it should be pointed out about authoritarian regime in Russia, which still in many aspects lives by the "cold war" principles and tries to keep its sphere of influence on the post-soviet space and support the authoritarian regimes (for example in Syria).

From the other side, it is important to pay attention about some problems of the unity of the western civilization itself. In many ways, their cohesion and integrity was provided by the presence of a common enemy in the person of the socialist countries. The fight against the communist threat forced Western countries to forget about disagreements in their own camp, for example, about the contradictions between Western Europe and the United States, the U.S. and Japan etc. Now, the "common enemy" as if is absent. So, main question is emerged, what may play the role of unifying principle and stimulus for the development western countries? On this question there are different point of view. Anyway, despite the fact, that "cold war" is over, imperialistic ambitions of Russia, nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea, authoritarian regime in Syria etc. gives to the west the stimulus for the further serious consideration the importance of the promotion the integration in the different fields among the western democratic and developed countries.

## Conclusion

The International Politics is an integral part of human civilization: Without of it, is impossible the promotion of International cooperation, social progress, the existence of society and the individual. One of the main purpose of the international politics is to guide international community development for the approval a just international order, the restriction of political economic etc. pressure on the state from the other state and ensure the priority of national interests of the state and human rights. However, International politics serves the public good only if there are researched laws of its development, and if there are mechanisms, which prevent its destructive influence on the country, nation, society and individual.

## References

- Kaplan. M.A. (1957). *System and Process in International Politics*. John Wiley and Sons, New-York. P. 15.
- Modalsky. G. (1978). *The Long Cycle of Global Politics and the Nation-State*. "Comparative Studies in Society and History". pp. 214-235G
- Morgenthau. H. J. (1948). *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. New York, Alfred A. Knopf. P. 8-9
- ნიკა ჩიტაძე. (2011). "გეოპოლიტიკა" [Chitadze. N. (2011). *Geopolitics*]. მეორე გამოცემა. თბილისი. ISBN 978-9941-17-328-8. P. 183
- რონდელი. ა. (2003). საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობები [Rondeli. A. (2003). *International Relations*]. გამომცემლობა "ნეკერი". თბილისი. p. 74
- Мухаев Р. Т. (2000). ПОЛИТОЛОГИЯ [Mukhaev. R. (2000). *Politology*]. Учебник для студентов юридических и гуманитарных факультетов. МОСКВА. ISBN 5-7990-0049-8 стр. 380; 381; 386

## Additional Literature

- Chris Brown, Terry Nardin, Nicholas Rengger. (2002). *International Relations in Political Thought*. Cambridge University Press.
- Sheila L. Croucher. *Globalization and Belonging: The Politics of Identity in a Changing World*. Rowman & Littlefield.