Typology of international organizations, their functions and role in world politics

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ABSTRACT

The present article is about the history and typology of international organizations, their functions and role in world politics, in ensuring peace, security and sustainable development of States

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Xalqaro tashkilotlarni tipologiyasini, ularning vazifalari va jahon siyosatidagi roli

ANNOTATSIYA

Mazkur maqolada xalqaro tashkilotlarning tarixi va tipologiyasi, ularning jahon siyosatidagi faoliyati va roli, shuningdek, davlatlarning tinchligi, xavfsizligi va barqaror rivojlanishini ta’minlash chora-tadbirlari haqida fikrlar bayon etilgan.

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Типология международных организаций, их функции и роль в мировой политике

АННОТАЦИЯ

Настоящая статья посвящена истории и типологии международных организаций, их функциям и роли в мировой политике, в обеспечении мира, безопасности и устойчивого развития государств.

Ключевые слова: суверенные государства, международные отношения, международные организации, современная система, Организация Объединенных Наций, международные конфликты, глобальные проблемы, мир, межгосударственные организации, международные неправительственные организации, стабильность.

The international order established after the Congress of Westphalia in 1648 predetermined the dominant positions of sovereign States and interstate relations in world politics for several centuries to come. Since that time, the entire period of international interaction to the present day has been considered by many researchers as the history of a unified system of international relations, the dominant subjects of which are sovereign states, equal and independent in conducting domestic policy within their national borders and without interference in each other’s affairs. Over time, States have developed international law based on these principles – a set of rules governing international relations.

Independent nation-States continue to play a key role in the modern system of international relations. However, today they have ceased to be the only players on the world stage – they have begun to play an increasingly active and prominent role in the international system. International and regional organizations, forums and other governmental and non-governmental actors, a "polycentric" international system began to form.

The first international organizations appeared at the beginning and middle of the XIX century (the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine, 1815; the World Telegraph Union, 1865; the Universal Postal Union, 1874). They were created in the sphere of economy, transport, and culture and were aimed at cross-border cooperation. The number of such organizations, or so-called international administrative unions, increased by the beginning of the XX century. They operated in the fields of healthcare, transport, disaster management, etc. The process of globalization and the growing cross-border flow of goods, services, information, and people led to the fact that at the beginning of the XX century. A global system of the world economy was formed, an important role in the management of which was played by international organizations.
In the field of politics, the predecessors of the first international organizations appeared after the Vienna Congress of 1815, during the formation of the so-called European Concert of the Five Great Powers (England, Prussia, Russia, Austria, and France). Researchers often consider the European Concert as a prototype of international organizations in the field of politics and security in European affairs: It was a system of congresses and conferences in which the Powers resolved issues of settlement of international conflicts. The next stage in the development of international organizations was the activity of the League of Nations, established in 1919. It differed from the European Concert in that it was created on the basis of an internationally recognized act – the Statute of the League of Nations and was based on the principle of collective security. At the same time, created in order to prevent a world war, the League of Nations failed in the application of this principle. From an organization that was supposed to promote collective security, disarmament, and the peaceful settlement of conflicts on the basis of international law, it turned, according to British researcher K. Archer, "into a shell" that was not recognized by states that did not want to pursue a policy outside their sphere of interests.

Despite the fact that the League of Nations was formally dissolved in 1946, many researchers, especially in the West, consider it a great experiment, the unsuccessful experience of which was taken into account by the founders of the United Nations (UN). Moreover, thanks to the institutional forms of international cooperation formed by the League of Nations in the fields of security, economics, and law, the foundation of the future UN was provided. Despite the existing problems in the effective functioning of the UN, this organization occupies a leading and important place in the structure of international governmental associations.

At the same time, Muslim countries are particularly active in it, demanding, in particular, the admission of some of them to the Security Council with the right of veto. It is important that many other international governmental organizations are represented in the UN. Regional and even interregional types, including the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Their participation in the activities of the UN can be considered as one of the pieces of evidence that, for all its heterogeneity and the presence of certain the countries of the Islamic world still strive to act as a "single political force", coordinate common positions, jointly defend common interests. At the heart of this rapprochement or "unity" is the concept of the Ummah – the community of Muslims (Ummat al-mu’minin), without ethnic, national and state barriers.

At the same time, international organizations are part of the global state-centrist system. Their institutional forms and activities reflect the national interests of the Member States. After the end of the cold war, the types of international organizations and their functions expanded; with the development of their activities and the strengthening of interstate cooperation within their framework, the ability of international organizations to resolve conflicts and solve regional and global problems has potentially increased.

International organizations are divided into two main groups:

1) Interstate organizations established by States on the basis of an international treaty for multilateral cooperation. Their activities are based on the search for a common platform and coordination of the foreign policy of the member States on the issues that this organization deals with.
2) International non-governmental organizations arise through the association of individuals or legal entities whose activities are carried out outside the framework of the official foreign policy of States.

As noted above, interstate organizations have a much more tangible impact on international political development, since the main "players" in the international arena in the modern world remain states. At the same time, there are more international non-governmental organizations than interstate ones, and for many years there has been a steady trend of expanding their number. At the end of the 1960s there were less than 2 thousand international non-governmental organizations, in 1998 there were already over 5 thousand. This is the manifestation of the increasing globalization of the world system: "the emergence of an increasing number of non-state actors (actors) operating in the international arena in parallel with states and in a certain sense challenging their monopoly position, is becoming a remarkable phenomenon in the development of international relations... And yet the importance of interstate organizations for regulating international life is immeasurably greater".

In particular, interstate organizations actively participate in the process of forming and implementing international legal norms, and the effectiveness of these norms increasingly depends on how they are recognized and implemented by organizations.

Interstate organizations differ in the composition and circle of their members (universal and regional), functional purpose (general and special competence), rules for expanding the membership of their members (open and closed), the nature of their powers (based on the traditional coordination of the positions of member countries and containing elements over nationality). Shared trends in the development of interstate organizations can be considered: a) strengthening of regional issues in their activities, allowing them to focus on certain problems; b) an increase in the number of organizations with special competence to regulate specific areas of international interaction; c) more frequent endowment of some interstate organizations with supranational powers.

In a few years, the number of subjects of the international system, their relationship models and rules of conduct have experienced more profound changes than during the decades of the cold war. According to many researchers, the world at the end of the XX century began to be characterized more by disorder than by order, conflicts than by a strategy for their settlement. It is possible to list some features of the modern international system:

1) Nation-States are still the main subjects of the international system. Today, the number of States that are full members of the UN is 193 (at the same time, Palestine received recognition by the UN General Assembly in 2012 as an "observer State in the UN" instead of the former "observer entity"). On the basis of the principle of territorial sovereignty, political power is reserved for individual States, which continue to be States, which continue to be the primary subjects of international law. However, their ability to solve an increasing number of regional and global problems without international cooperation is decreasing.

2) An increasing number of international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, which create a special form of management of the international system, necessary in conditions of increasing interdependence and intertwining interests of States in the political, economic, and social fields. International organizations form the
institutional framework of the political process in which State or non-State "actors" participate. International non-governmental organizations are "secondary" or derivative subjects of international law since they are created by States - the main subjects of international law. They are institutions of private international law. In general, international organizations assume certain management functions in the political sphere that States cannot fully assume.

3) The processes of decentralization, regionalization and multipolarity. The configuration of the bipolar conflict of the Cold War is no longer decisive for the international system. New regional centers are being formed, primarily in Asia, where this is manifested in the dynamic economic development of China and India in the Asia-Pacific region. At the same time, there is the rise of other and rapidly developing major economies – Brazil in Latin America and South Africa on the African continent. Regional and international organizations or associations (the G20, the EU, NAFTA, the OIC, ASEAN, etc.) become, together with States, leading participants in the international system.

4) Moving the center of confrontation in the international system from the East-West relations to the North-South axis. The conflict between the "rich" "North" and the "poor South" is based on different political, economic, and cultural opportunities for the development of industrial and developing countries. There is a process of differentiation within a large group of developing countries, in which a small number of rich, industrialized countries, OPEC member states stand out. On the other hand, the gap between developed and developing countries is growing.

5) Changes in the content and measurement of the concept of "power". The classic signs of the power of States and territorial sovereignty have lost their significance in many respects. Western political science has introduced into scientific circulation the concepts of "tangible force" (traditional signs of strength) and "intangible force" (new signs of the power of states – scientific and technological base, industrial and financial potential, currency, human capital, guarantees of social security, the social system of the state, etc.).

Based on the above, it should be emphasized that the modern international system has a transitional character, combining the features of the Westphalian international order and the "new formative world order". Although nation-States and international organizations continue to be the main "actors" of the international system, the role and influence of non-State actors, primarily non-governmental organizations and transnational corporations (TNCs), on world politics and the economy is increasing. The new essential factors of the international system are the end of the cold war, termination of bipolarity. It is necessary to add to this the processes of scientific, technological, and information revolutions, globalization, and the intensification of the conflict along the North-South axis, which acquired a new dimension and dynamics after the termination of the East-West conflict. A number of the above-mentioned features of the modern international system have contributed to increasing the role of multilateral diplomacy in world politics, which differs from bilateral diplomacy in that international organizations, as well as various international forums, conferences and summits, play a major role in it.

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