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**TRENDS OF RESEARCH OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
(ASPECT OF MODERN HISTORY)**

**ТЕНДЕНЦІЇ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ СТРАТЕГІЧНОГО ПАРТНЕРСТВА
(АСПЕКТ СУЧАСНОЇ ІСТОРІЇ)**

**TENDENCIAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN DE SOCIODINAMIA DE
PARTNERSHIP
(ASPECTO DE LA HISTORIA MODERNA)**

***Summary.** The article analyzes the multidimensionality of world politics, which requires global actors to search for conceptual forms of interaction to solve complex international processes, which contributes to deeper cooperation and creating special partnerships. The growing political, economic and military instability at the global level has led to the need for theoretical and practical renewal of foreign policy strategies, as well as for the development of effective*

mechanisms for collective cooperation. A comprehensive study of the conceptual and applied dimensions of strategic partnership, which is a special tool for aligning the foreign policy of global actors and at the same time serves as one of the effective types of international partnership, allows to take into account the growing political risks and identify ways to mitigate the effects of global destabilization on global actors, identify points of coordination for their strategic engagement and to offer programs of cooperation at the international, transregional and global level of forming partnerships. The strategic partnership of global actors at this stage is marked by the impact of global trends in international development, so the topic is examined through the transition from general to specific, taking into account the problems and processes of globalization that affect all participants in international relations, who are forced to seek optimal solutions for foreign policy issues.

Key words: *international relations, strategic partnership, cooperation, globalization, crisis, conflict.*

Анотація. У статті аналізується багатовимірність світової політики, що вимагає від міжнародних акторів здійснювати пошук концептуальних форм взаємодії для вирішення складних міжнародних процесів, що сприяє поглибленню співпраці та створенню особливих партнерських зв'язків. Зростаюча політична, економічна та військова нестабільність на глобальному рівні призводить до потреби теоретичного та практичного оновлення зовнішньополітичних стратегій, а також розробки ефективних механізмів колективного співробітництва. Цілісне дослідження концептуальних і прикладних вимірів стратегічного партнерства, що є особливим інструментом узгодження зовнішньої політики міжнародних акторів та водночас виступає одним з ефективних типів міжнародного партнерства, дозволяє врахувати зростаючі політичні ризики і визначити способи пом'якшення

наслідків глобальної дестабілізації для міжнародних учасників, виявити критичні точки координації їх стратегічної взаємодії та запропонувати програми співпраці на міжнаціональному, трансрегіональному та глобальному рівнях формування партнерської взаємодії. Стратегічне партнерство міжнародних акторів на сучасному етапі позначене впливом глобальних тенденцій міжнародного розвитку, тому досліджувана тема розглядається через призму переходу від загального до конкретного з врахуванням проблем і процесів глобалізації, що впливають на всіх учасників міжнародних відносин, які змушені шукати оптимальні шляхи та моделі ефективного вирішення завдань зовнішньої політики.

Ключові слова: міжнародні відносини, стратегічне партнерство, співпраця, глобалізація, криза, конфлікт.

Анотація. В статті аналізується багатомірність мирової політики, яка вимагає від міжнародних акторів здійснювати пошук концептуальних форм взаємодії для рішення складних міжнародних процесів, що сприяє углубленню співпраці та створенню особливих партнерських зв'язків. Ростаюча політична, економічна та військова нестабільність на глобальному рівні призводить до необхідності теоретичного та практичного оновлення внешнеполітичних стратегій, а також до розробки ефективних механізмів колективного співпраці. Комплексне дослідження концептуальних та прикладних аспектів стратегічного партнерства, яке виступає особливим інструментом узгодження зовнішньої політики міжнародних акторів і одночасно виступає одним з ефективних типів міжнародного партнерства, дозволяє врахувати зростаючі політичні ризики та визначити способи зменшення наслідків глобальної дестабілізації для міжнародних учасників, виявити критичні точки їх стратегічного взаємодії та

предложить программы сотрудничества на межнациональном, трансрегиональном и глобальном уровнях формирования партнерского взаимодействия. Стратегическое партнерство международных актеров на современном этапе обозначено влиянием глобальных тенденций международного развития, поэтому изучаемая тема рассматривается через призму перехода от общего к конкретному с учетом проблем и процессов глобализации, влияющих на всех участников международных отношений, вынужденных искать оптимальные пути и модели эффективного решения задач внешней политики.

Ключевые слова: *международные отношения, стратегическое партнерство, сотрудничество, глобализация, кризис, конфликт.*

The study of the multidimensionality of world politics is quite relevant and requires global actors to search for conceptual forms of interaction to solve complex international processes, which contributes to the deepening of cooperation and the creation of special partnerships. The growing political, economic and military instability at the global level has led to the need for theoretical and practical renewal of foreign policy strategies, as well as for the development of effective mechanisms for collective cooperation. A comprehensive study of the conceptual and applied dimensions of strategic partnership, which is a special tool for aligning the foreign policy of global actors and at the same time serves as one of the effective types of international partnership, allows to take into account the growing political risks and identify ways to mitigate the effects of global destabilization on global actors, identify points of coordination for their strategic engagement and to offer programs of cooperation at the international, transregional and global level of forming partnerships. The strategic partnership of global actors at this stage is marked by the impact of global trends in international development, so the topic is examined through the transition from general to specific, taking into account the

problems and processes of globalization that affect all participants in international relations, who are forced to seek optimal solutions for foreign policy issues.

Researchers claim that strategic partnerships are usually related to the defense and security sector, although bilateral strategic economic, investment, educational or cultural relations may be noted. There are several approaches to understanding the essence of the term "strategic partnership", in particular skeptics note that the concluded interstate agreements are based on a specific international political context, formed under certain time conditions, and therefore such agreements have their own context, which cannot be projected from the past to the present; scientists who hold a neutral stance on forming a strategic partnership consider it as a form of combination of status interstate relations; proponents stress that developing a strategic partnership depends on how successfully one or both parties are able to balance between the conflicting interests of their partners and minimize political, economic, military or social risks of cooperation [1].

For scientific presentation of research problems, this article includes terminology, which is reflected in specialized scholarly works about the place and role of global actors, their interaction and interdependence in global development, in particular, such terms as international cooperation, foreign policy and strategic partnership:

– international cooperation means the interaction of actors on the basis of a positive and adaptive perception of each other, characterized by such compatibility of interests and goals, which results in the coordination of their actions to achieve a common goal. The category of cooperation in international relations is a dichotomous category opposite to the category of international conflict. Most researchers recognize the dialectical nature of the interaction of these two situational characteristics, preferring one of them as the dominant form of the system of international relations, in particular, the primacy of

cooperation over conflict is considered to be the central axiom of most concepts of international integration [2].

– the foreign policy strategy is defined as the system of actions taken by the state to achieve the goals of foreign policy, as well as the system of theoretical theses that govern them. It is formulated in a system of state documents that include the concept of foreign policy, foreign policy and / or military-political doctrine, the concept of national security, or it may be not formulated by state documents, but instead represented by a system of principles governing the activities of state bodies and officials in foreign policy. The foreign policy strategy reflects the main groups of national interests, goals and means of achieving them, and determines the ratio of all these elements. The strategy regulates the use by state bodies of diplomatic, economic or military means of foreign policy, as well as it is the basis for the development of comprehensive programs aimed at achieving the set goals [2].

– strategic partnership, from the author's point of view, implies such a level of international interaction of actors that allows to reconcile common foreign policy interests and form long-lasting bilateral and multilateral unions in political, economic or security sectors.

At present, international cooperation manifests itself in cooperation, rivalry and conflict. It should be noted that strategic partnership can be formed both in terms of cooperation and rivalry. In particular, in the case of cooperation, global actors participate in various international institutions on the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements on friendship and cooperation that are in line with their strategic interests. Whereas, in the face of rivalry, actors may be in a state of strategic partnership as well as confrontation, and if a peaceful nature of struggle is observed, then interaction is manifested through the realization of national economic, technological or cultural interests [3].

1. The concept of "strategic partnership" is also associated with the interpretation of the concept of "strategy", which is difficult to interpret because

of the inconsistency of the goals pursued by global actors. In this context, researcher L. Harte points out that the essence of the strategy lies not only in the search for military action to realize its interests, but also in the formation of a favorable strategic situation that can resolve a foreign policy problem or become a continuation of military action. In general, researchers characterize strategy as a significant influence on the actor or situation; as a means of forming a lasting impact or as a perspective dynamic adaptation to the goal of interaction [4;5]

Therefore, the strategy can be defined as long-term behavior of a global actor, based on the available means of achieving the goal and implemented through situational analysis, comparison with their own benefits and the choice of effective means of securing foreign policy interests. We will add that with the change of the foreign policy situation, the transformation of the strategy of behavior of global actors takes place, which leads to the adjustment of priorities or their full revision.

In view of the international and political changes in which strategic partnership is formed and developed, Ukrainian researchers distinguish such types of foreign relations as partnerships, which are related to the support of foreign policy actions, which is manifested in forming a common international position, providing assistance, guaranteeing security, conducting joint military exercises, etc.; confrontational relations based on the non-perception of the foreign policy of another international participant and the emergence of political confrontation, manifested in the form of diplomatic demarches or military rivalries. It should be added that this type of relations is formed, according to the researchers, when vital foreign policy interests are at stake and manifested through the support of "the opponent of his opponent" [6]; dominant relations that develop between states when one state is politically, economically, militarily or territorially dependent on another, and when a more powerful state assumes the function of protecting the weaker and forcing it to act or inaction [6].

In general, the essence of the concept of "strategic partnership" depends on the status of the participants, the international political, economic, security situation and the goals set. Therefore, in practice, we can observe the symbolic content of the declared strategic partnership, which does not characterize the relations between the parties, but demonstrates convergence and helps to support the weaker party by the strong actor. In the interstate relations, another interpretation of the strategic partnership is presented, which can be compared to the interpretation of the concept in business, as cooperation between various companies for the achievement of common economic and strategic goals. Applied studies of interstate relations make it possible to understand strategic partnership depending on the content of the concepts of "strategic" and "partnership", in particular, "strategic" is interpreted as formulated and agreed long-term goals and effective ways of achieving them, and "partnership" is considered as a mutual responsibility within joint efforts regarding the same, similar or agreed goals of engagement [7].

The critical assessment of neo-realistic and neoliberal ideas of natural state rivalry and cooperation has made it possible to understand the conditions for forming a strategic partnership between different actors. In particular, within neo-realism, public policy focuses on gaining advantages over competitors and maximizing the protection of its own interests, while when it comes to neo-liberalism, state policy is based on compromise principles aimed at forming mutual interests [8]. In view of the strategic partnership, it should be noted that international actors are aware of the need to unite efforts to form coalitions through which they can achieve their own foreign policy goals. While the creation of supranational entities is considered a demonstration of the political will of its members, it does not always guarantee progress in relations with other states or within a union. The current level of interstate cooperation allows to balance between effective and independent management of foreign policy activities while maintaining maximum security and opportunities for political

and economic development with an acceptable level of dependence. The level of interdependence achieved through the practical implementation of strategic partnership principles also minimizes open armed confrontations, translates them into the level of negotiations at the level of either international institutions or "situational" coalitions. Thus, strategic partnership between states minimizes asymmetric threats in the political, economic and security sectors, though it should be noted that neo-realism still focuses on ensuring national security via its own efforts as a result of anarchy in the international environment.

Researchers point out that strategic partnership as a foreign policy tool can foster cooperation between global actors who share the same goals, determined by the structure of the environment or based on the interests of lobby groups. Common to neo-realist and neoliberal approaches is the support of both institutional flexibility and long-term cooperation based on close partner relationships, that is, strategic alliances capable of combining different theoretical approaches for deeper integration [8], [9].

It should be added that "partnership", "union" and "special relations" are rather old terms used to refer to relations between global actors, while the concept of "strategic partnership" has been widely used in international relations since the 1990s. However, there is no clear interpretation of the term, since, in our view, the approach to "strategic partnership" at the level of a supranational entity or international organization may differ in essence, actors involved and goals of cooperation between the two states, which can be enshrined in the form agreements or declarations. Therefore, we can distinguish between bilateral and multilateral strategic partnerships based on the principles of cooperation, association or enhanced cooperation at the level of economy or security.

In this context, researcher J. Greve claims that strategic partnership at European level can be considered a political rather than a legal category, since no document or statement clearly defines its essence. He also points out that due to the lack of definition and accuracy, this term can be ambiguously interpreted

when proclaiming the foreign policy principles of integration union of leading global players. Thus, it is not possible to clearly distinguish "strategic partnership" from other interaction, defined as "cooperation", simply "partnership" or "special relationship". In addition, the coherence of cooperation tactics of actors, for example, in the areas of security, energy, trade, investment, science, both at the level of strategic partnership and at the level of other relations may cause controversy in understanding the essence of such interaction. Therefore, in the future, the researcher stresses the need for the regulatory fixing of the term "strategic partnership" in order to avoid ambiguous interpretation of the EU's foreign policy interests [9].

A. Lass's approach to strategic partnership is fundamentally different, in particular, he argues that strategic partnership is a priority for political and economic interaction, since they are established on the basis of the development of bilateral relations of a universal nature and are cumulative. In doing so, the researcher distinguishes between the concepts of "strategic partnership" and "new strategic partner relations", emphasizing that the term "strategic partnership" cannot be used as multi-purpose to refer to interstate interaction. Therefore, the traditional approach to the interpretation of strategic partnership, in the view of the researcher, should be replaced by the term "new strategic partner relations", which is based on the national development strategy, linked to the general political and economic outlook, formed in the country, and provides the fulfilment of the potential for autonomous international action [10].

Some foreign researchers understand strategic partnership as a relationship between two powerful actors capable of taking strategic action together. The Center for European Policy Studies, for its part, identifies strategic partnerships between states as a political tool that helps deepen economic relations. Researchers conclude that the existence of shared values, shared interests and mutual understanding are important criteria for "partnership" as opposed to "cooperation", and that "partnership is possible only between equal

participants in both political and economic contexts" [11]. We can partially agree with the view of the researchers, because the existing strategic partnership relations do not always correspond to the equal status of the actors in the international arena, while the strategic interaction of diverse actors helps solve security or humanitarian problems more effectively, as well as to avoid open armed confrontations. However, it should be noted that these points are disputable and should be considered based on the specific international political situation.

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