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THE WORLD AFTER 2014: THE APOCALYPSE TODAY

The article is devoted to one of the most actual aspects of international relations in coming 2014 – the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and also to such both real and imaginary consequences to each it will lead.

The last 2- 2,5 years in the political science it became extremely actual and even modern to make short – term and medium - term prognosis of the development of the political situation in this or that region, subregion etc. They all have one common chronological lead (tie) – 2014 year. This is the year of the withdrawal of troops of NATO, and if we'll be more exact, of the partial pull-out of American military force. The numeral – 2014 – became sacramental and even ominous because of such over - actualization of this date by the scientific community. Many people became to perceive this date as the original Rubicon after which the international relations had to acquire in principle another quality. In the frames of this article we'll try to look into, investigate those peripeteius which 2014 will provoke.

Thus, 2014 has already begun; the withdrawal of the biggest part of the American military force from Afghanistan is planned on autumn (more than 50000 soldiers and officers). And what will be after this event? There are many written sceneries from the whole narcotization of the Big Central Asia to the beginning of the ambitious war between various regional players (actors)¹.

¹ Afghanistan and the Central Asia: the challenges after 2014. www.regnum.ru Kazantsev A. Afghanistan can become for the USA the second Vietnam. www.ria.ru/interview/20130725 Stepanova E. Afghanistan after 2014: the perspectives for Russia. www.ifri.org The scenarios prognosis of the development of the situation in the Central Asia after the withdrawal of coalition forces from Afghanistan 2014–2024. www.russuancouncil.ru/inner/?id_4_1870



However, it shouldn't be forgotten that the level of drug production and drug traffic grew greatly in the years of American intervention and American troops didn't play any holding influence (quite the contrary)². The new splash of drug traffic will be for sure. But it will hardly become any more catastrophic than today's status quo. As for armed conflicts if they arise then they arise on other reasons (and it will arise not because of Afghanistan and the withdrawal of American troops but rather because of warming up by geopolitical games of the leading international actors). We shouldn't forget the fact that in modern conditions of globalization the so – called "vacuum of power" is hardly possible. The Chinese capital has been already actively thrown to Afghanistan. It is for sure seriously and for a long time (the construction of roads, projects on mining and working over of copper and other projects including infrastructural project have been started). One has only to rely that the Russian Federation will undertake efforts on regulating the economical presence in Afghanistan. However, one can be said exactly, Afghanistan, on no account, will not remain without attention of large state and non-state investors, international organizations and other actors of international relations.

The next persuasion is that the Islamization and then the further radicalization of the Big Central Asia will begin with the withdrawal of the USA from the Afghanistan. Though, it will be great delusion to maintain that Americans can influence on this process in any way. Moreover they are not tied with American armed presence in Afghanistan. The events of "Arabian spring" are the confirmation of this fact. The process of Islamization is already in full swing. Thus, we should speak more about the influence of Saud Arabia and Qatar than of the USA. The withdrawal of the USA armed power will make this irreversible process quicker.

The most possible variant of the development of the events can be the new spire of civil war in Afghanistan³. However, the such factor as China, which has an influence on neighboring Pakistan, and also the economic interests of Afghanistan itself (the war is not included in their conception) can play a positive role.

² Ivanov V. *The struggle against drugs needs the consolidation of the efforts of all the Great Powers*. www.narkotiki.ru/5_6728.html Turanova E. The history of one drug state. www.meast.ru/article/afghanistan-istoria-odnogo-narkogosudarstva

³ Stepanova E. Afghanistan after 2014: the perspectives for Russia. www.ifri.org



And now let's have a fling (analyze) in details at separate regions and countries and those consequences which the withdrawal of American troops will lead.

Europe and the European Union. After 2014 the intensification of large scale of drug trafficking through the rebelling Ukraine will happen, and also with the help of a new wave of migrants, the number of which will again implacably increase mainly at the expense of the countries cognizing the results (fruit) of "Arabian spring". Thus, the events in the Ukraine (and the possible civil war in this country) will play more important meaning (role) for the European establishment; and also Turkey and the process of its Europe integration (or pseudo integration) will also rivet attention. The withdrawal of troops will not lead any perceptible consequences for the EU. Except the understanding and realizing the necessity of improvement of the community's united politics in the sphere of security and local conflicts, and also the regulation of migration streams (this is the problem which will interest the Europe more than other problems after 2014).

The USA. For the USA Afghanistan is the undoubted foreign policy failure. The aims of the campaign were not gained, the huge sums were spent, and there were the deaths of American soldiers to these facts the American society concerns historically very morbid. That's why making it appear (pretending) that the forces withdraw Afghanistan as winners, at the same time the USA will seek to compensate in any way this crash in foreign policy failure. This will be expressed in the re – distribution of the financial resources and departmental efforts from the leading the war (the USA is eaten with wars a lot) for closer and more effective ways. Let's take, for example, Euromaydan in the Ukraine. The USA will strain maximum and every effort for shattering the situation in the Central Asia. The withdrawal of troops, the intensification of narcotization of the region gives the Americans the possibility to increase its influence in the region with the help of various funds, grants, sending its specialists and so on. However, one of the aims of American policy will exactly be the destabilization of the situation, playing of the Russian interests against the Chinese interests in the Central Asia, and also the intensification of tension (right up to local conflict between the regional countries themselves).

China. For China the consequences of 2014 will not be straightforward. On the one hand, it will give the possibility to strengthen its positions in Afghanistan (mostly economical), in Pakistan, in the states (countries) of the Central Asia. On the other hand, the aggressive foreign policy of China (another policy cannot be used in such circumstances) will lead to opposition from Russia. And this will be fraught with the increase of intensity between two countries, the cooling of the foreign policy dialogue and even, as one of the possible consequences, the collapse of Shanghai's organization of cooperation (SOC). The USA will actively work in the direction of



the realization of this scenario. Thus, to avoid the clash of interests of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China is hardly possible. The next negative factor for China is the islamization of the region (and this is the fact), and the next growth of radicalism and extremism on the borders with China and in China itself (SUAR).

Russia. For the Russian Federation in contradiction to other actors, 2014 carries more challenges than possibilities. The first aspect is connected practically with total (full) absence of pickets, well-grounded borders with the countries of the Central Asia. That's why the growth of drug traffic will hit on South and Siberia regions of Russia. The second aspect is a new wave of radicalization of the Northern Caucasus and south regions of Russia with the repeated increase of danger of terracts and the destabilization of political and social situation as a whole. The third aspect is the strengthening of the position of China in the Central Asia and probable full (complete) or partial supplanting of the Russian Federation from this region.

The Central Asia. For the states of the Central Asia the main threat is the possible export of instability from Afghanistan. Such threat as the narcotization of the region is not on the last place. They are not protected against it. The mechanisms of Shanghai's organization of cooperation (SOC) and the organization of the treaty on the collective security (OTCS) haven't worked any really effective instruments and ways of defense. The American advisors on these questions are not of use. The next consequence for the Central Asia will become the so-called islamization of the region. The phenomenon itself is neutral, if it is not accompanied by the strengthening of radicalism and extremism. And one more expected consequence is the reinforcement of contradictions between the states (countries) of the region which can outgrow into local conflict.

Afghanistan. For Afghanistan itself from the moment of the beginning of the international intervention practically any end of this situation is negative. After 2014 the changes of power (authority) will take place with the highest degree of probability in Afghanistan. In the already started struggle for powers the new circuit of civil war is possible. However, it will not interfere into the growth of the production of drugs and their transportation to other countries, because the drug traffic is the main source of income of the heads of clans and for ordinary citizens⁴ [7; 9]. And the last fact that can be said about Afghanistan after 2014 – it is the possible intensification of the position of Taliban.

⁴ Stepanova E. *Afghanistan after 2014...*, Ibid.; Turanova E. *The history of one drug state...*, Ibid.

So, summing up, we can say that in modern globalizing world any in the slightest degree significant process will have consequences for the whole world and for separate countries and regions in particular. The withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan is not the exception. It will have consequences for the most actors of the modern international relations. We analyzed only part of them. And these consequences will have mainly negative subtext. However, nothing critically scared, unchangeable and irreparable will be: there will not be global or regional chaos, new phases of development of international relations will not come. The world will become more unpredictable and more global and less monopolar.

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