

## **MEDITERRANEAN AND EUROPEAN DIRECTIONS OF SPAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY**

**Турчина Д.Т.**

*National Aviation University, Kyiv*

*Науковий керівник: к. політ. н. Поведа О.П.*

The Middle East and North Africa region has always been one of the priorities of Spain's foreign policy. Spain's political scene in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century is a constant rivalry between political parties and blocs. Particularly, characterizing the policy of Jose Maria Aznar, who was Prime Minister of Spain from 1996 till 2004 from the People's Party, it is possible to note the special aspiration of activation of Spain's participation in EU, NATO, UN and other international organizations. Meanwhile, EuroAtlantic relations and Spanish-American relations became an absolute foreign policy priority.

The main contours of Spain's modern foreign policy were shaped by successive parliamentary cabinets.

These governments have increased Spain's role and prestige in the world as a result of their effective action. The country has become an economically and politically advanced democracy with a generally consistent foreign policy.

The foreign political course during the democratic transition was based on a great cohesion within Spanish society as well as broad consensus on international relations. The country's integration has contributed to the serious economic boom of the state, the so-called Spanish Miracle [1].

Spain, acting as a Eurooptimist, has a critical attitude both to the German concept of a hard core (not the accession of new members, but the rallying around the current European leaders, i.e. Germany and France themselves) and British idea of free accession by any country only to agreements considered suitable for it. The Spaniards are in favor of sufficiently flexible and open forms of integration within the EU, both of which, from their point of view, are already in place (the Schengen zone, the euro-army, the European monetary system).

A number of serious studies have been released by Spanish and other foreign authors on the problems of Spanish foreign policy, its orientation, goals and priorities in recent decades. A number of Spanish researchers who have written about the history and foreign policy of Spain include J.M. Armero, R. Bassols, A. Viñas, I. Gonzalez, J.A. Ituryaga de Barberan, R. Cotarelo, J.A. Martínez and others.

Spain's foreign policy and global relations are in harmony with the

POLIT.Challenges of science today, 5-9 April 2021

general international behavior of the European Union and its most important member states. Only small adjustments can be found in some concrete scenarios and peripheral problems. These make Spain a "different" country.

Spain has essentially followed a traditional line in its foreign policy, excluding the issue of excessive emphasis on the pro-Atlantic vector, that was clearly observed under J.M. Aznar. The foreign policy strategy of the Spanish socialists, under J.L. Rodríguez Zapatero, deviates in some respects from the conservatives [2].

However, new Spanish leadership intends to continue Madrid's equilibrium partnership with the United States and European powers. Spanish advocates ensuring the leading role of the UN in global affairs as an efficient multilateral mechanism for dealing with key global and regional problems. Continuously maintaining the continuity of foreign policy approaches, Spain's government views NATO as a key element of Euro-Atlantic security [3].

The state takes the first blow from the instability of the Moroccan regime, ravaged by ethnic conflicts, poverty, lack of freedoms, and pushes many Africans to desire a path to Europe through the "Spanish door. Moreover, Spain is an Atlantic country, which raises its status on the geopolitical map of the globe as a strategic target. Although, following the period of Spanish colonial strength and the rise to prominence of more economically advanced England and France, Spain took a marginal position in Europe.

Spain aims to synchronize relations with the foreign policy of the Community, operating within democratic framework, which is defined as a policy of "civil state", "civil state" (note that in Spain "civil state" is understood as an association of individuals. The rights of every citizen of the civil state are protected by law. Spain assumed a passive position in the system of international relations, with comparatively little political weight, compensated by the moral prestige that enabled it to mediate in international dialogue. In this way, Spain's involvement in the complex of integration processes in NATO and the EEC turned the state into a full member of the international community and a medium-sized state with an extended international relations network. International political marginality passed from weakness to dignity.

So, Spain has always been assigned a special position in the relationships regulation between various regional forces. Currently, Spain has diplomatic relations with almost all the countries of the world that are part of the United Nations and are recognized by the leading countries. The pronounced strategic defense function has been substituted by an intermediary function to solve a wide range of problems with the Muslim world bordering Europe.

In this sense, modern Spain, having emerged and developed under the strong influence of European, Roman, Arab and Jewish cultures trying to solve migration issues in a civilized way is an ideal mediator in the development

dialogue between the Islamic and Christian worlds. Thus, the country's foreign policy is truly multidimensional. Spain manages to achieve a high degree of involvement in international activities that are truly essential to world politics.

#### **References:**

1. Gerry O'Reilly, Gibraltar: Sovereignty Disputes and Territorial Waters, IBRU Boundary and Security Bulletin, Spring 1999.

2. Anikeeva N. E., Vedyushin V. A., Volosyuk O. V., Mednikov I. YU., Pozhars'ka SP. Istoriya zovnishn'oji politiki Ispanji. Moskva, Mizhnarodni vidnosini, 2014. 502 s.

3. Черкасова Є. Гібралтар: нелегкі шляхи вирішення територіальної проблеми. Ібероамериканські зошити, 2015, №4(6, с. 87-98.

•