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СТАТУС АФРИКИ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ МИРОПОРЯДКЕ

Аннотация

В статье исследуется Африка и ее статус в международном миропорядке. Африка – континент с огромным экономическим и политическим потенциалом, который приобрел чрезвычайно важное значение в современном международном порядке. Африканские страны все активнее сотрудничают на глобальном и региональном уровнях. Африканский Союз оказывает большое влияние на продвижение стабильности, безопасности и экономической интеграции на континенте.

Перераспределение политической и экономической власти в африканских странах представляет собой сложный и непрерывный процесс, определяемый историческими предпосылками, внутренней динамикой и глобальными влияниями. Несмотря на достигнутый прогресс, остаются проблемы в достижении справедливого развития, инклюзивного управления и устойчивого экономического роста на всем континенте. Распределение

политической власти сильно различалось: в некоторых странах наблюдалось стабильное управление и мирная передача власти, в то время как другие сталкивались с авторитарными режимами и политической нестабильностью.

Благодаря своему экономическому потенциалу, демографическим тенденциям и положению в мировых сетях поставок ресурсов Африка становится все более и более признанным регионом жизненной важности в современных геополитических исследованиях.

Ключевые слова: Китай, Россия, Африка, экономическая интеграция, международный миропорядок, Африканский союз, саммит Россия-Африка, FOCAC, Саммит Евросоюз-Африканский союз, политическая стабильность.

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POLITICAL SCIENCE

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STATUS OF AFRICA IN THE MODERN WORLD ORDER

Abstract

The article explores Africa and its status in the international world order. Africa is a continent with enormous economic and political potential, which has become extremely important in the contemporary international order. African nations are collaborating more and more on the global and regional levels. The African Union greatly affects the promotion of stability, security, and economic integration on the continent.

The redistribution of political and economic power in African countries has been a complex and ongoing process formed by historical backgrounds, internal dynamics, and global influences. While progress has been made, challenges remain in achieving equitable development, inclusive governance, and sustainable economic growth across the con-

tinents. The distribution of political power has varied widely, with some countries experiencing stable governance and peaceful transitions of power, while others faced authoritarian regimes and political instability.

Due to its economic potential, demographic trends, and position in the world's resource supply networks, Africa is becoming more and more recognized as a region of vital importance in modern geopolitical study.

Keywords: China, Russia, Africa, International Relations Китай, Россия, Африка, экономическая интеграция, международный миропорядок, Африканский союз, саммит Россия-Африка, FOCAC, Саммит Евросоюз-Африканский союз, политическая стабильность.

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Africa today is experiencing a rapid expansion of its manufacturing, services, investment, high-tech goods, labor, and consumer goods markets. The continent's economic growth is increasing, in part because of a rapidly expanding middle class, which increases demand for consumer and new investment goods as well as for modern services. The changing status of the African continent in the world order interests all the main international powers, both established and emerging ones, while increasing struggle for power in politics and the economy throughout Africa. To understand increased interest that African continent has been receiving over the last decades, it is important to understand its role in the contemporary international order. During the Cold War, international system was characterized by a relevant stability due to an ongoing power-struggle between two superpowers: The US and The Soviet Union. African countries during this time were balancing between the Soviet Union and the US, receiving aid from either or both. Thus, creating a situation of stability. However, after the end of the Cold War, international system lost its stability, which affected African continent. Both Russian Federation and the US revalued their aid and support to African countries.

After the 2000s, the role of Africa in the international community increased once again. For the US and the EU, its value increased after September 11, 2001, with the beginning of war against terrorism. The end of the US support resulted in emergence of various terrorist groups across African continent, including the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), Al-Jihad (Egyptian Islamic Jihad), the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG), etc., with three international terrorist organizations HAMAS, Hezbollah, and Al-Qaida [4]. Thus, after the events of September 11 the US had to reevaluate its presence in Africa.

The African continent has become a place of intersection between interests of major world forces, both traditional and new. These interests are reflected in cooperation strategies, as well as summits and conferences, which are important platforms for promoting new initiatives on the continent. In addition to the Russia–Africa summit and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), there are also several other summits held by major forces interested in cooperation with African countries. All these summits focus on defining common rules of cooperation. The largest summits, in addition to the Russia-Africa and FOCAC summits, include:

US-Africa Leaders' Summit, which was launched in 2014 and focuses on infrastructure projects, technological development, and food security [11].

The European Union-African Union Summit, which has been held since 2000. Cooperation is concentrated in the areas of trade, energy, security, and migration regulation, as well as the establishment of close political, cultural, and scientific ties. In 2022, the sixth summit adopted the strategy of cooperation until 2030 – Joint Vision for 2030 [12].

The Tokyo International Conference of African Development (TICAD), which has been held since 1993 focuses on the sustainable development of Africa. TICAD is a joint initiative between Japan, the African Union, UNDP, the Office of the United Nations Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) and the World Bank [11].

The India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) has been held since 2008 and focuses on issues of sovereignty of African countries, economic and political cooperation. The last summit was held in 2015, where there was a cooperation strategy to link India's economic growth with the African Agenda 2063 [14].

The Turkey–Africa Partnership Summit, which has been held since 2008, focuses on the development of Turkey's diplomatic presence on the continent, as well as the development of economic, political, and humanitarian cooperation. For Turkey, it is especially important to be present in regional organizations of the continent [10].

Africa has fallen outside of the United States' primary objectives in recent years as it has concentrated its resources and attention on other parts of the globe. Despite this, the United States is attempting to adjust to the shifting circumstances on the continent of Africa by capitalizing on the conflicts between other powerful players. There are significant political, economic, and security interests at stake for the United States in Africa. The United States works with African nations to discourage and eradicate militant extremist organizations on the continent, and it wants to forge alliances with those groups that may advance international norms and aid in the fight against threat from around the world [13].

With a lengthy and complicated history in Africa, the European Union, and its member countries, especially France, continue to have strong cultural and economic ties with the continent. The country with the largest influence in Africa, France, maintains close economic links with French-speaking nations and has made substantial efforts to do the same with those that speak English, including Kenya and Nigeria. Nevertheless, France is starting to lose influence in the region, as it was shown from the events in Niger [13].

Smaller powers, including Japan has been implementing a plan over the past ten years to improve its standing with African nations, safeguard maritime security interests, and challenge Chinese dominance in the Indo-Pacific area. India has established the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGS) to foster cooperation and development as part of its efforts to challenge Chinese dominance in the Indian Ocean [15]. As a nation with relatively small resources on the scale of a superpower, Turkey negotiates with other nations and focuses primarily on establishing a multilateral infrastructure of influence in African nations, particularly in North Africa [10].

In an ongoing effort to increase and consolidate their influence in Africa, China and Russia are working together. It is significant to note that Russia uses both military

and economic tools whereas China only uses diplomatic and economic ones. China has started viewing African countries with more importance increasing its presence both economically and politically. For many years, China has been a leading and essential partner in the financing and construction of infrastructure for several African States. China has held annual Forum on China-African Cooperation (FOCAC) since 2000. However, the Chinese Communist Party has long-standing relationships with several African political groups even before the forum was established. China had dominated trade with Africa for 12 years by 2021[3]. China is the largest source of infrastructure financing on the continent, while the growth of its foreign direct investment has been approximately 40% a year for more than a decade [6]. What is more, China's political activity in Africa contrasts with the approach of the United States and Europe. China offers an alternative development model, different from the Western economic model [17]. The Chinese approach is to use its own internal economic transformation as an example that can be followed and that does not require multiparty democracy to achieve results [8]. What is more, China largely abides by its promise not to interfere in the internal affairs of its African partners [2].

Russian Federation was slow in increasing its presence on the continent, mainly focusing its attention on the West. The new concept of relations between the Russian Federation and African states was adopted at the First Russia-Africa Summit in 2019 plainly speaks about its turn towards Africa [16]. In May 2023, the Second Russia-Africa Summit was held in St. Petersburg, which confirmed the previous principles of cooperation, and speaks about the interests of Russian state structures and the business community in African continent. During the Summit following mechanisms of partnership between Russia and African countries were mentioned [14]:

1. Strengthening the role of the Russia–Africa Partnership Forum as a forming element of multilateral Russia-Africa cooperation, implementing the decisions of the summit.

2. Holding annual political consultations between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, as well as between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, African States, and the Commission of the African Union between summits.

3. Creating a permanent Russia-Africa dialogue mechanism at the highest level, functioning within the framework of the Strategy for the Development of Multilateral Partnerships of the African Union, joint participation in African Union programs related to the development of the peace, stability, and security.

African agency exists in international order within different contexts. For instance, its presence on multilateral intergovernmental organizations. Within this context African agency could be explored from such organizations like the

United Nations (the UN); Group of Twenty (G20); India, Brazil, South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA) and BRICS [5].

From regional context, African Agency has been improving since 2002, when the African Union was established, which allowed African states to make agreements with the EU, China via FOCAC, and Japan via Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). What is more, the political consciousness of the African Union increases yearly as Africa develops into a self-sufficient global force [7]. A declaration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which changed its name to the African Union (AU) in 2002, was adopted at the 2013 African Union Summit in Addis Abeba. It was a crucial turning point in the development of regional integration initiatives on the African continent. One of the key goals of the Declaration was the establishment of a continental free trade zone, as well as promoting growth of the African Union's regional economic communities and the achievement of the African Economic Communities' objectives [1]. The African Union views the following organizations as the foundation for the coming African common market: ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), COMESA (Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa), SADC (Southern African Development Community), EAC (East African Community), ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African Countries), CEN-SAD (Community Sahel-Saharan States), IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) and AMU (Arab Maghreb Union).

Despite all the difficulties, the regional organizations founded in Africa are gradually implementing changes. Within each integration grouping, these reforms have already made a significant impact on the level of legal harmony, freedom of movement for people, services, and a unified oversight of economic activity and labor relations. Modern Africa is gradually gaining influence in global politics and the economy by developing integration processes, utilizing its resource-related competitive advantages, actively balancing between old and new partners, attracting financial and technological resources, and activating human capital [9].

Overall, Africa is a complicated political region with many difficulties. While many African nations have made strides toward democratization and the protection of human rights, others still face challenges with governance, corruption, and armed conflict. Africa is a continent with growing geopolitical significance for both established and developing powers. While the United States, the EU and Russia have been strengthening their engagement with the continent, China has made considerable investments in the infrastructure and resources of Africa. With considerable political and economic potential, Africa is an area that is becoming more and more significant in contemporary geopolitical studies. However, it also faces significant challenges, and its path to sustainable development and stability is a complex and ongoing process.

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