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**FOREIGN POLICY OF THE D. TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TOWARDS  
CHINA (2017-2021) AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

Specialty 5.5.4 – International Relations, Global and Regional Studies

**ANNOTATION OF DISSERTATION**

for the degree of candidate of political sciences

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**The relevance of studying** US policy towards China is determined by the significance of US-Chinese relations in the modern world. Diplomatic relations between the countries were established in 1979. In recent decades, China has demonstrated high rates of economic growth and, in a number of development indicators, has caught up, is catching up, or even surpassed the US. As a result, a geopolitical confrontation between the two modern superpowers has emerged, which became obvious in 2017 after D. Trump's victory in the US presidential election.

The Trump presidency has brought about some transformation of the traditional American policy towards China that has been pursued for the past four decades. This has contributed to a sharp deterioration in bilateral relations, changed the main parameter of bilateral relations, and profoundly affected world politics. Trump's defeat by Biden in the 2020 election, his statements refusing to accept the election results, and the attempted takeover of Capitol Hill by his far-right supporters on January 6, 2021 are seen as the first time in US history that "democracy is under attack." This echoes the contradictions that have characterized Trump's entire presidency. At the same time, there was a general political consensus between the losing Republicans and the winning Democrats regarding China. Despite the change of president, the main political forces continued to view China as the main adversary. In 2021-2025, the administration of President J. Biden largely continued the policy of the Trump administration regarding China.

Trump's victory in the 2024 US presidential election reflects the polarizing reality of the American domestic political climate. Trump's return to the White House has already brought and continues to bring uncertainty to global politics and US foreign policy. Bilateral relations are once again at a crossroads.

**The latest works of Russian, American and Chinese researchers** were used in the preparation of the dissertation. These works are numerous and diverse, since the policy of the Trump administration towards the Chinese People's Republic has set completely new tasks of academic research for scientists around the world.

In general, as a result of the analysis of the literature on the topic of the dissertation, it can be concluded that a certain part of the issues of the dissertation work was considered in the American and Chinese scientific community. There are still no studies that could provide a comprehensive analysis of the US China policy during the Trump presidency.

**The object of the study** is the US foreign policy towards China in the period from 2017 to 2021.

**The subject of the study** is the transformation of the Trump administration's policy towards China during his first presidential term in 2017-2021 and China's asymmetric counter-strategy.

The main objective of the study is to identify the development and transformation of US policy towards China from 2017 to 2021.

**To achieve this goal**, the following tasks were defined:

- to identify the ideological foundations of US foreign policy, to establish the role and significance of "Trumpism" in modern US life and the reasons for the confrontational US policy towards China.
- to analyze the main directions of US policy towards China during the first presidency of D. Trump (2017-2021)
- highlight the features and consequences of the Trump administration's China policy, in particular its challenges and opportunities for China from various points of view;
- analyze the key factors affecting China's national interests and bilateral relations, such as trade war, technology war and the COVID-19 pandemic;
- examine China's counter-strategy and counter-measures in 2017-2021.

**The hypothesis of the study** is that the confrontational policy of D. Trump cannot be considered as a sharp change in the foreign policy of the United States. The Trump administration has rather transformed the traditional "Grand Strategy" of the United States, aimed at maintaining and strengthening American dominance in the world arena.

A strong bipartisan consensus has emerged in Washington on China.

**The chronological framework of the study** is mainly limited to the period 2017-2021, that is, the first presidential term of D. Trump. At the same time, the author found it useful to also look back on some issues to the Cold War era and beyond in order to demonstrate more broadly the dynamic interaction between Grand Strategy and the formation of US foreign policy.

**The theoretical basis of the study** is based on concepts related to the study of political problems of international relations. The theories of various fundamental schools and paradigms for studying the "Grand Strategy" of the United States, the foundations of US foreign policy and "Trumpism" as a new phenomenon in political science are presented. The study uses a number of key concepts to identify the logical connection between the US Grand Strategy, American realism and liberalism, and the formation of US foreign policy. Thus, from a realist perspective, the concept of the "security dilemma" defines the motivation of great powers to play a hegemonic role to ensure security.

In addition to Western theories, this paper uses concepts from the Chinese School of International Relations. The concept of "moral realism" reveals the Chinese vision of great power leadership. This concept is based on the assertion that the rise or decline of states depends on political leadership. Other key concepts of the Chinese school were also used: the concept of "comprehensive state power," which provides the Chinese methodology for determining great, medium, and small powers in international relations; the concept of "Community of Shared Future for Mankind", which emphasizes openness, inclusiveness and mutually beneficial cooperation in building the common destiny of mankind and describes a new type and approach to international relations that replaces the Western model of hegemony. Finally, the Chinese vision of the American "Grand Strategy" regards its essence as "American hegemonism".

**Research methods.** The dissertation used general scientific methods of international analysis, in particular analytical, empirical, comparative, chronological, situational, narrative, as well as methods of applied political analysis (case study and event analysis).

– the systems approach was used as a tool for analyzing the essence of US foreign policy and a comprehensive understanding of China's measures to counter American confrontational policy. This made it possible to simultaneously recreate as a single whole the entire diversity of instruments used by the US and described in chronological order.

- the problem-chronological approach was used to comprehensively understand the influence of various factors on the decision-making of the American administration on Chinese issues. - the institutional approach was used to study formal and informal actors and identify the relationships between them.

– the historiographical approach was used to construct an objective picture of significant differences in the interpretation of international events.

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