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**ADAPTIVE MODEL OF THE HUMANITARIAN POLICY
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

Specialty: 23.00.04 Political Problems of International Relations and Global and
Regional development

Thesis annotation

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N.V. Shafinskaya's thesis key findings

“Adaptive model of the humanitarian policy implementation of the Russian Federation in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam”

The relevance of the thesis research is due to the fact that the implementation of humanitarian policy tools acceptable for a particular state rather than military methods is a crucial factor for the influence of leading powers on other international actors in terms of the formation of a multipolar world and geopolitical confrontation. From this perspective, the study of the humanitarian aspect of the foreign policy of the Russian Federation in promoting its national interests is of great magnitude. Consequently, there is a need to find out the reasons for the passive use of the Russia's humanitarian policy tools to achieve strategic goals abroad.

There are points of interests' intersection for many countries including the USA, China, Russia in the region of South-East Asia due to the geolocation of the region, economic growth rate, transport and logistics capacity of the states located there. The above-mentioned region is defined as strategically significant for Russia by the Concept of the Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation. Notably, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is of particular interest being the only country in the region that has a comprehensive strategic partnership with Russia.

The undivided attention paid to Vietnam by other world powers such as the USA, China and South Korea points its exceptional civilized position and role for other countries of the Indochina region. In relation to the Russian Federation, this is due to the following factors:

- cultural and historical - Vietnam is perceived as a “big brother” by a major part of the Indochina population, primarily in Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar. Vietnam is pursuing a fairly active policy there and can act as an intermediary between Russia and designated states. In addition, friendly relations between Russia and Vietnam were established more than 70 years ago and have a long and solid foundation:

- economic - despite the sharp decline in bilateral trade intercourse after the collapse of the Soviet Union, there is currently a consistent increase in trade turnover, which increased by 13% from January to September 2020 compared to the previous year and amounted to \$ 4.1 billion, that was also noted at the meeting of the Russian Ambassador with the Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc held this year. Currently, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is the leading trade partner of the Russian Federation among the ASEAN member-states.

- political - in 2012 Russia and Vietnam signed a comprehensive strategic partnership agreement which implies the gradual development of interstate relations in all areas including humanitarian one. However, as of early 2020, the cooperation between two nations does not correspond to the existing potential to the full extent and does not meet the needs of Russia in the region of interest.

It deems that to promote Russia's national interests in Vietnam efficiently, it is necessary to improve the basics of its humanitarian policy, i.e. to develop a model that will contain an adaptive mechanism aimed at achieving dynamic stability of international relations including the Russian language as an integral parameter that unites all elements of foreign-policy activity.

The object of the thesis research is the humanitarian foreign-policy activity of the Russian Federation in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The subject of the thesis research is the structure, functions and resources of the humanitarian policy carried out by state and non-state Russian organisations in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The aim of the theses research is to develop a dynamic model of the Russian Federation's humanitarian policy in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which can aptly respond to changes in the geo-economic and geopolitical situation in the region while maintaining the active promotion of Russia's national interests and accomplish strategic objectives.

To achieve this aim, the following objectives were determined:

1. the identification of the essential features of the humanitarian policy in terms of foreign policy and demonstrate its instrumental support by means of “soft power”;

2. the determination of the humanitarian potential of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the implementation of Russia's perspective strategic foreign policy interests;

3. the analysis of the strategies of the foreign policy actors of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the implementation of the humanitarian impact on the Vietnam vital activities to ensure their national interests in the operating country;

4. the analysis of the tactics and strategy for the implementation of Russia’s humanitarian policy in Vietnam;

5. the comparison of the established conventions of achieving the geopolitical interests of the Russian Federation and international actors in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;

6. the development of an adaptive model for the implementation of Russia's humanitarian policy in Vietnam, ensuring its sustainability, stability, and prospects in modern geopolitical conditions.

A set of general scientific and special, applied research methods, conceptually related to the cognitive schemes of political neorealism and rational choice, the institutional approach, and the conceptual setting of the balance of power, is used **as a methodological foundation for the thesis**. Taken as a whole, they make it possible to theoretically substantiate the peculiarities of Russian foreign policy in the Indochina region, identify the specifics of humanitarian policy and demonstrate its functions within the system of foreign-policy activities of Russia and other actors, and serve as the foundation for empirical research.

The complexity of the subject of the thesis research is due to the existence of a number of variables in humanitarian policy promotion and competitive activities of other foreign policy actors in Vietnam. It has predetermined the necessity to apply methods of systems’ modeling, analysis of socio-cultural processes dynamics, statistical method, situational and institutional analysis. The use of the

modeling method, SWOT-analysis, index method with “country attractiveness” indicators for the implementation of their “soft power” policy, as well as matrix design method enabled us to achieve the stated thesis research results.

Empirical (source) foundation of the thesis research.

The first group of sources consists of international treaties and agreements contained in the acts of the United Nations and other supranational organisations, such as the Association of East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), etc., regulating international cooperation and relations in the region and particularly in Vietnam. It also includes bilateral treaties and agreements concluded between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Russian Federation, as well as other foreign policy actors operating in the geopolitical space of Vietnam.

The second group of sources consists of legislative acts of the legislation of Russia and Vietnam; decisions of the heads of state and executive bodies regulating international cooperation in the implementation of humanitarian policy, including the following areas: science, education, healthcare, migration processes, etc.

The given groups of sources offered a possibility to determine the legal framework and the state of political international relations between Vietnam, the Russian Federation and other countries, and to identify the priority areas of international cooperation.

The third group of sources consists of materials from the media. Such as *RNA TASS, InoSMI, Foreign Policy, National Interests, the Voice of Vietnam*, and others. The study of this group of sources provided the means for tracing the dynamics and chronicle of current events more thoroughly, as well as various socio-political views on Russian humanitarian policy in Vietnam, and separately made decisions.

The last, *fourth group* encompasses statistical data. It consists of both materials from official structures and data from different non-governmental organisations, which form the basis for the analysis of diverse factors of socio-

political life that have a significant impact on the development of Russian-Vietnamese relations.

To identify the problems that impede the dynamic development of bilateral Russian-Vietnamese relations and identify a “humanitarian leader” among foreign countries in Vietnam, the author conducted an individual poll of representatives of various groups of the political elite and the local population of Vietnam. The poll was conducted among managers at the national and provincial levels, considering their industry focus, as well as among the local population, including young people.

The scientific novelty of the thesis research is as follows.

The study of the humanitarian foreign-policy activity of the Russian Federation in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is based on the understanding of the humanitarian policy as a combined adaptive system with a dynamic model that includes functions of parametric and structural adaptation. The system of the humanitarian policy should be adequate to the variability of the socio-cultural environment of the target country, which implies the parameterisation of a dual impact (at the level of ideas and at the level of action) on a complex system entity, including individual actors, social groups, and institutions, as well as culture as a set of stable symbolic spaces, values, and practices as its elements. The impact can be aimed both at transformation, up to radical system restructuring, and at its expansion, achieving stability and adaptability of the socio-cultural system and political institutions. It preconditions the author’s definition of the humanitarian policy as a combined adaptive system with an adaptive dynamic model that has the functions of parametric and structural adaptation, which includes a set of aims, objectives and means of their achievement aimed at multiplying cultural (symbolic) assets and the provision of homeostasis of the state interests’ management system.

The given methodological certitude, combined with the implementation of the modeling method, enabled us to address the dynamic model design of the humanitarian policy of international actors in Vietnam, which includes three

dimensions: subjective, institutional, and symbolic. The derived parameters of the model make it possible to characterise both the impact on the humanitarian policy object, and to assess the dynamics of the influencing system and the system that is subject to influence.

Based on the sociological research conducted by the author on the efficiency of the implementation of the Russian humanitarian policy in Vietnam it may be concluded that the development of a rational dynamic model of the Russian Federation's humanitarian policy in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which can aptly respond to changes in the geo-economic and geopolitical situation in the region while maintaining active promotion of Russia's national interests and accomplishing strategic objectives is possible by means of focusing of managerial influence on the proposed model parameters. The thesis describes the ideal and real models of the humanitarian policy of the Russian Federation, as well as its proper model and practical recommendations for the implementation of an adaptive system of the humanitarian policy.

The chronological framework of the thesis research is confined to the period from 2001 when the partnership relations were established and, in general, "Russia returned to Vietnam and Southeast Asia", up to the present.

The findings of the thesis research submitted for defence.

1. The humanitarian policy is identified as a combined adaptive system with an adaptive dynamic model that has the functions of parametric and structural adaptation, which includes a set of aims, objectives and means of their achievement designed for multiplying cultural (symbolic) assets and securing a homeostasis of the state interests' management system. This understanding of the humanitarian policy defines its integrating features in the cycle of strategic management of foreign-policy activities as based on the development of values that unite the system ideologically and ensure an increase in stability;

2. The reference to the methodological paradigm of institutional, synergetic, and adaptive approaches as well as power equation allow us to reveal the adaptive model of the humanitarian policy; taking into consideration the

conventions of the humanitarian policy implementation by the Russian Federation in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The integral regulator is the Russian language, which unites all elements of foreign-policy activities of the politics based on the subordination principles into an integral system. The author determined the quantitative and qualitative parameters of the model that regulate its adaptability (the number of institutions implementing humanitarian policy, the number of employees and activities carried out; the quality of implemented projects identified by means of sociological research; monitoring of successful humanitarian practices of other foreign policy actors).

3. The socio-cultural system of Vietnam has insufficient internal capacity to ensure stability that can be accomplished in cooperation with the Russian Federation. The adaptive potential of the Russian humanitarian policy in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is to be considered as measured against the capabilities of other actors in the region's humanitarian policy, their geopolitical interests and current foreign policy.

4. The implementation of foreign-policy objectives of the USA and China with the help of the humanitarian policy in Vietnam is reflected in a model that consists of three levels: subjective, institutional and symbolic. The institutional level of the model includes state institutions, nongovernmental organisations/foundations, cultural centres, the population (which is typical for all actors of humanitarian policy in the region); the analysis of subjects and objects of humanitarian policy makes it possible to characterise the USA through the generation opposition with the identification of youth as objects of humanitarian policy, whereas the Chinese approach to humanitarian policy can be analysed through the diaspora. The symbolic level identified the USA's commitment to a confrontational model with a claim to a radical transformation of the symbolic space, while China manifested adherence to the model of a regional cultural community.

5. The comparison of the humanitarian policy strategy of the Russian Federation with the strategies of the most active actors in the political space of the

Socialist Republic of Vietnam showed incoordination of the symbolic, institutional and subjective dimensions of the humanitarian policy. Its situational targeting at the level of the subjective dimension (with the retention of commitment to the Soviet heritage), insufficient coherence and weak resource provision at the institutional level, as well as insufficient certainty or lack of a relevant agenda at the level of the symbolic dimension.

6. The proposed combined adaptive system of the Russia's humanitarian policy in Vietnam is based on the priority of ensuring the sustainability and stability of the socio-cultural system of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which is accomplished with the help of the design of an adaptive dynamic model that has the functions of parametric and structural adaptation. Furthermore, such a model illustrates the consistency and adaptability of the subjective, institutional, and symbolic levels. Russian humanitarian policy targeting. The development of Russia's institutional presence in Vietnam with the improvement of the regulatory framework of their activities, coordination of strategies and expansion of their activities' tools.

Approbation of the thesis findings. The key provisions and conclusions of the thesis research were presented by the author in the form of reports and speeches at international and all-Russian research-to-practice conferences such as: V Scientific Snesev Readings (Moscow, February 10, 2018, RANEPa Institute of Law and National Security); Scientific conference "Development of motivation to study Russian for Vietnamese youth" (Hanoi, December 2018, the Academy of National Defence, Vietnam); Scientific conference "International and domestic experience in strategic cooperation between Russia and Vietnam in the field of education" (Hanoi, May 14, 2019, Academy of public administration of Vietnam); Panel discussion "70 years of cooperation between Russia and Vietnam: sustainable relations aimed at the future" (Moscow, January 20, 2020 Institute of Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences), International research-to-practice conference "From the October revolution of 1917 in Russia to the revolutionary movement in Vietnam: historical significance and today's world"

(Hanoi, November 23-24, 2017, Hanoi State University); International research-to-practice conference "The role of popular diplomacy in the development of Russian-Vietnamese relations" (Moscow, October 20, 2020, Russian-Vietnamese Friendship Society with the support of the Presidential Grants Fund); International scientific conference "The changing role of Vietnam in the modern world: towards the XIII Congress of the Vietnam Communist Party" (online format; December 19, 2020, Ho Chi Minh Institute of St. Petersburg state University) , etc.

7 scientific articles on the topic of the thesis research were published with a total volume of 3.1 printers' sheet, including articles in scientific journals indexed in WoS (Vietnam in particular), and included in the list of VAK of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation:

1. *Shafinskaya N.V.* The historical context of the "youth" direction of the humanitarian policy of Russia in Vietnam // Conference proceedings of the International research-to-practice conference "From the October revolution of 1917 in Russia to the revolutionary movement in Vietnam: historical significance and today's world". 2017. Pp.802-815.;

2. *Shafinskaya N.V.* The formation of motivation among teachers, employees and cadets of educational institutions of the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam when sending them to study in the Russian Federation / / Conference proceedings of the scientific conference "Development of motivation to study Russian for Vietnamese youth". 2018. Pp.56-61.;

3. *Shafinskaya N.V.* Russian language is a tool for effective promotion of Russia's national interests abroad / Peace and wars in the focus of geopolitics: Academic Department view: V Scientific Snesev Readings: Conference proceedings / compiling editor Shevchenko A.V. 2019. pp. 121-125.;

4. *Shafinskaya N.V.* Adaptive Modeling as a Tool of Effective Promotion of Russian National Interests in Vietnam //Tomsk State University Journal. 2019. No 445. Pp. 72-77.;

5. *Shafinskaya N.V.* "Soft Power" as a Tool of Russia Humanitarian Policy Towards the Socialist Republic of Vietnam // Scientific Notes of V.I.

Vernadsky Crimean Federal University. Philological sciences. Philosophy. Political Science. Cultural Studies. 2019. Volume 5 (71). No 4. Pp. 152-164.;

6. *Shafinskaya N.V.* “Soft Power” as a Tool of USA Humanitarian Policy Towards the Socialist Republic of Vietnam // *Izvestiya of Saratov University. New Series. Series. Sociological Science. Political Science.* 2020. Volume 20, issue 1. Pp.112-117.;

7. *Shafinskaya N.V.* Soft power tools: on the issue of training personnel with knowledge of Russian and Vietnamese languages // *Rossotrudnitchestvo in Vietnam.* M.: Institute of Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 2020. Pp. 197-209.

The results of the thesis research can be applied by government authorities in the development of Russia's foreign policy strategy in the South-East Asia region, taking into account the dynamics of changes in the economic development parameters, transport and logistics potential of many states pursuing their geopolitical interests. The data obtained within the framework of the given thesis research can also be relied upon to give lectures and conduct workshops on specialised disciplines to incumbent middle and top-level managers on such topics as Russian foreign policy, Russian-Vietnamese relations, international relations in Indochina, and the theory of international relations.

The thesis consists of an introduction, two chapters, a conclusion, a list of used sources and references, of 165 units in total.

N.V. Shafinskaya