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MAIN TRENDS IN COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM OF REGIONAL AND NON-REGIONAL ACTORS

The object of the research of this article is new trends in the spread of ideas of radicalism among young people in the conditions of modern geopolitical realities in Central Asia, taking into account international practice.

The purpose of the article: to conduct a comprehensive scientific study aimed at identifying the causes of the spread of the ideological influence of transnational religious extremist organizations on the youth of the Central Asian countries and to prepare recommendations for the state structures of the Republic of Kazakhstan that form the system of regional and national security, taking into account the analysis of international experience and new trends in this area.

Research methods: system approach, general historical methods, institutional and structural-functional analysis, level-sector analysis, scenario forecast and interdisciplinary approach, etc.

The study identified effective measures to combat radicalism; studied the impact of geopolitical contradictions in the Eurasian space on the radicalization of young people in order to ensure the national and strategic interests of the Republic of Kazakhstan; analyzed the main areas of cooperation with international organizations to combat the spread of radical extremism, in order to identify opportunities to improve their effectiveness. The results obtained allow us to present recommendations and forecast estimates aimed at anticipating threats to national and regional security for state and non-state structures of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Key words: new trends, extremism, radicalism, terrorism, Central Asia.

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Трансұлттық экстремизм мен терроризмге қарсы күрестегі аймақтық және аймақтық емес акторлардың негізгі трендтері

Бұл мақаланың зерттеу объектісі – халықаралық жағдайды ескергендегі Орталық Азиядағы қазіргі геосаяси ақуалда жастар арасындағы радикализм идеяларының таралуындағы жаңа трендтер.

Мақаланың мақсаты: Орталық Азия елдеріндегі жастар арасында діни экстремистік ұйымдардың идеологиялық әсерінің таралу себептерін анықтауға бағытталған кешенді зерттеу жүргізу және осы саладағы халықаралық тәжірибе мен жаңа трендтерді ескере отырып, ұлттық қауіпсіздік жүйесін құратын Қазақстан Республикасының мемлекеттік құрылымдарына ұсыныстар дайындау.

Зерттеу әдістері: жүйелік бағыт, жалпытарихи әдістер, институционалдық және құрылымдық-функционалдық талдау, деңгейлік-секторалдық талдау, сценарийлік болжам мен пәнаралық бағыт.

Зерттеу барысында Еуразия кеңістігіндегі геосаяси қайшылықтардың жастардың радикалдануына әсері ҚР ұлттық және стратегиялық мүдделерін қамтамасыз ету мақсатында зерделенеді; халықаралық ұйымдармен радикалды экстремизмді күрес жөніндегі ынтымақтастығының негізгі бағыттарын анықтау мақсатында олардың тиімділігін арттыру мүмкіндіктері зерделенеді. Шығарылған нәтижелер ұлттық және аймақтық қауіпсіздік қауіп-қатерлерін алдын ала ескертуге бағытталған мемлекеттік және мемлекеттік емес құрылымдар үшін ұсыныстар жасауға мүмкіндік береді.

Түйін сөздер: жаңа трендтер, экстремизм, радикализм, ланкестік, Орталық Азия.

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Основные тренды в борьбе с транснациональным экстремизмом и терроризмом региональных и нерегинальных акторов

Объектом исследования данной статьи являются новые тренды распространения идей радикализма среди молодежи в условиях современных геополитических реалий в ЦА с учетом международной практики.

Цель статьи: провести комплексное научное исследование, направленное на выявление причин распространения идеологического влияния транснациональных религиозных экстремистских организаций на молодежь стран ЦА и подготовить рекомендации для государственных структур РК, формирующих систему региональной и национальной безопасности с учетом анализа международного опыта и новых трендов в данной сфере.

Методы исследования: системный подход, общеисторические методы, институциональный и структурно-функциональный анализ, уровнево-секторальный анализ, сценарный прогноз и междисциплинарный подход и др.

В ходе изучения выявлены эффективные меры в борьбе с радикализмом; изучено влияние геополитических противоречий на пространстве Евразии на радикализацию молодежи с целью обеспечения национальных и стратегических интересов РК; проанализированы основные направления сотрудничества с международными организациями по борьбе с распространением радикального экстремизма, с целью выявления возможностей повышения их эффективности. Полученные результаты позволяют представить рекомендации и прогнозные оценки, направленные на упреждение угроз национальной и региональной безопасности для государственных и негосударственных структур РК.

Ключевые слова: новые тренды, экстремизм, радикализм, терроризм, Центральная Азия.

Introduction

The growing radicalization of society and socio-political life are becoming a common sign of the current moment. The world community is facing this problem everywhere.

The world community is facing this problem everywhere. Conflict in one form or another is becoming an important tool for resolving political or socio-economic issues: anti-government demonstrations, mass riots, political strikes, and a rapid increase in destabilization is observed in Latin America, Asia, the middle East, and Africa. There is a protest against the establishment as such, regardless of political views, ideologies and development concepts. The problem is that recently, under the influence of events in the middle East, the ideology and forms of radical extremism and terrorism around the world have changed dramatically. They have evolved and modernized, but, unfortunately, many states did not feel these changes and were not ready for them.

At the same time, the countries of the region are undergoing serious political and socio-economic transformations aimed at modernizing the traditionally Eastern state and society. Slowed down by the global pandemic, but marked industrial development is accompanied by changes in the organization and structure of society, caused by

urbanization and the breakdown of traditional social ties, the politicization of religion, which in turn causes various consequences for the political life of Central Asian countries, and for the regional security system.

Radicalization among young people, which is typical for the entire world community, is becoming the main and General political trend of our time. In this regard, for the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Central Asian States as a whole, the issue of identifying dimensions of this phenomenon that can explain the mechanisms of youth radicalization and contribute to the adoption of adequate and effective measures by the state and society to de-radicalization is being updated.

Research methods and Literature Review

The interdisciplinary nature of the research requires the use of various research methods based on a combination of economic, political, religious, demographic, socio-cultural, socio-psychological and comparative approaches. To study a given problem, we used systematic and comparative methods that give a holistic view of the problem under consideration and allow us to identify the special and General. The situation analysis helped to understand the specifics of youth participation in terrorist and extremist organizations. Along with

the methods discussed above, we use an analysis based on a combination of a systematic approach, a comparative historical method, methods of synthesis and analysis, empirical research, content analysis of available documents and materials, as well as structural, functional and institutional approaches, which allowed us to comprehensively present the phenomenon of youth involvement in extremist and terrorist organizations.

The problem of extremism and terrorism in Central Asia attracts much attention of researchers from states with interests in this region. Western researchers working on the problem of extremism and terrorism are widely represented: J. Baudrillard (Baudrillard J., 2013), A. W. Meinhof (Meinhof W., 1971), A. Rashid (Rashid A., 2002), B. Lia (Lia B., 2008), C. Murray (Murray C., 2006; Murray C., 2007), U. Musharbash (Musharbash Y., 2007), F. Gerges (Gerges F., 2005) etc.

But at the same time, the main topic of their research is the problem of terrorism in general, the question of the definition of terrorism, its origin, as well as the reasons for its spread. Most Western researchers believe that radicalism and its extreme outcome – terrorism – can be explained in terms of the theory of social division through the dynamics of existing intergroup conflicts (Newman E., 2006; Schmid A., 2005)

Russian scientists began to consider terrorism as one of the first not only a political state, but also a social one with its own roots (Исаев М., 2007). There is a sufficient number of interdisciplinary works devoted to the reasons for the spread of extremism and terrorism, but they dealt with the issues of terrorism in general, not focusing on the participation of Central Asian youth in terrorist and extremist organizations (АНТОНЕНКО М., 2015)

In Central Asia, most of the authors, analyzing the reasons for the involvement of youth in extremist movements, focus on terrorism, and not on the reasons for radicalization, which is more important, since understanding these causes will lead to effective prevention measures. However, many scientific articles devoted to the analysis of factors and features of terrorism in Central Asia cooperation within the framework of regional organizations in the context of the fight against terrorism and extremism can be useful in analyzing the problems under consideration (ПАХМОНОВ А.).

Among Kazakhstani experts and scientists should be noted scientific works E. Karin (Karin E., 2011), M.T. Laumulin (Laumulin M., 2007), K.I. Baizakova (Baizakova K.I., Kukeyeva F.T., 2011; Baizakova K.I., 2017), F.T. Kukeyeva (Kukeyeva

F.T., 2016), E.S. Chukubayev (Chukubayev E.S., 2016), Zh. Baizakova (Baizakova Zh., 2016; Baizakova Zh., 2018), A. Chebotarev (Chebotarev A., 2016) and others.

Despite the fact that the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism in modern conditions is constantly evolving and acquiring new forms and methods, there is no special study in the scientific literature that allows a comprehensive review of new trends in the theory and practice of combating religious extremism and terrorism, to study the causes of radicalization of young people in the countries of Central Asia.

Dynamics of changes in the geopolitical environment of Kazakhstan in the context of preventing the growth of radicalism among Central Asian youth

The study made it possible to reveal the fact that the foreign policy factor can often become important in the problem of radicalization of the society of a particular state. It is the geopolitical trends that are the determining factors in the development of the trend of radicalism and terrorism in a large territory of Eurasia, especially in the Middle East and southeastern part of it.

By now, international relations around the region are undergoing qualitative changes. At the same time, many processes launched during the years of the end of the «cold war» and earlier, in one form or another, continue to determine the vector of state and social development of countries with a traditional oriental organization of society, as well as regions bordering with them.

Analysis of the current situation shows the correlation of the dynamics of the military-political situation with the evolution of the foreign policy interests of the world's leading actors. This allows us to conclude that often the aggravation of the military-political situation in a number of Middle Eastern states is directly or indirectly determined by the presence of a serious clash of geopolitical and geostrategic interests of the consolidated West and its allies on the one hand, as well as Russia, Turkey, Iran and China on the other.

There are a number of risks that require an adequate response. First of all, this is a narrowing of the space for maneuvering within the framework of a multi-vector policy in the process of the development of the geopolitical struggle in Central Asia between global players: China, the USA and Russia. At the present stage, tasks for Kazakhstan within the framework of a multi-vector approach have become

noticeably more complicated and the risks associated with such a policy are increasing. At the same time, in our conditions, another approach is not acceptable.

In the wide area of Eurasia, the security system of which is inextricably linked with the global security system, the problem of «new challenges» is especially acute. International terrorism, religious extremism and ethno-national separatism; organized crime, illegal circulation of drugs and weapons, illegal migration have found fertile ground in the territory of the «Eurasian Balkans». Territorial proximity to Afghanistan is also a destabilizing factor.

The main military-political threats from the «hot spots» of the Middle East or Afghanistan for the countries of Central Asia and the Republic of Kazakhstan, in particular, are related to the fact that, due to the absence of an effective central government, there may remain territories free of state power, where they can appear and function radical groups that can pursue a variety of interests. Including in relation to Kazakhstan.

In the case of Afghanistan, we are talking primarily about the territories bordering with Central Asia, which can be used as a springboard for religious-ideological or military-political expansion.

Among other things, Central Asia and Kazakhstan have come into direct contact with the Islamic world. This is a fundamentally new situation for the Central Asian states and their societies, which have long been on the periphery of the Islamic ecumene. However, at present, the political role of the religious factor is increasing, since the stormy and unpredictable political processes in the countries of the Greater Middle East are beginning to influence the course of socio-political and religious-ideological processes in the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan.

The countries of Central Asia in the process of their development, to one degree or another, repeat the path that many Middle Eastern states have traveled with the traditionally Eastern organization of society. Therefore, the factor of rapprochement with the Islamic world can have a serious impact on the political sphere, for example, for that part of society that understands political Islam as a possible alternative to social or state development.

In this regard, the contacts of the leaders of the Islamic Ummah with Kazakhstan, as the northernmost border of the Islamic world, not counting the Muslim regions of Russia, are being actualized. For Turkey and its allies in the international arena, Kazakhstan represents an important link between the West and the East, which can actively contribute to

the development of the agenda. It is noteworthy that Kazakhstan was important for the settlement of the Iranian nuclear program and one of the phases of the Syrian confrontation.

Thus, as the experience of the escalation of the armed conflict in Syria and Iraq with the Islamic State/Daesh shows, as well as the subsequent decrease in the degree of tension, the radicalization of certain circles of society, primarily young people, is associated not only with military activities, but primarily with a change in the geopolitical situation in the region. This indicates that the evolution of the foreign policy of such world centers of power as the United States can directly influence the regional security system and, in particular, the complex of economic, socio-political and military security of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Radical forces are fueled by contradictions between different powers and states, and often radicals are instruments of settling geopolitical scores between warring countries. It is noteworthy that the largest number of attacks in the world and the active activities of international terrorist organizations occur in the conflict zones in South Asia and the Middle East, where an active process of delimiting geopolitical influence between global and regional powers is taking place.

Thus, the further situation in the Central Asian region will largely be determined by how the United States and China will build their relations on the one hand, Russia and the consolidated West on the other, Russia and China, Russia and Turkey, Russia and Iran on the third. The military-political situation will be tightly tied to the strategic and national interests of the leading world and regional powers. At the same time, it is necessary to clearly understand at what cost stability is achieved in Central Asia, and who is interested in maintaining the status quo.

The study and analysis of existing geopolitical contradictions in the vast Eurasian continent shows not only the multi-vector nature of interests, but also an obvious connection between the strengthening of geostrategic competition between world and regional powers and the growth of destabilization potential in a particular country. Moreover, an important role in enhancing the processes of destabilization lies, first of all, on that part of society that is usually referred to as young people.

An analysis of external factors allows us to conclude that, firstly, certain threats to the national security of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the medium and long term are associated with the growth of religiosity of the younger generation and a shift in emphasis towards radical or extremist interpre-

tations of the doctrine. Secondly, a public threat is posed by those citizens who took part in «hot spots» on the side of illegal armed groups, as well as members of their families subjected to appropriate propaganda and indoctrination. Thirdly, external forces can use the national, ethnic or socio-economic factor in Central Asia and in the surrounding regions, which can also directly affect the long-term national and strategic interests of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In this regard, it can be noted that at the state level, the cause of a violent armed conflict in countries with a traditional eastern organization of society often also lies not in cultural, religious or ethnic traditions and differences, but in the procedure for distributing natural resources and income from their sale between tribal leaders, which does not meet their expectations. That is, under various slogans there is competition for resources, distribution of benefits and privileges. For example, violence against Christians in Syria, Egypt or Lebanon can also be explained by the desire of radical Islamists to limit their ability to participate in parliamentary elections and, thereby, narrow the capacity to defend and defend group and community economic interests.

Along with this, it should be taken into account that in recent years the ideological and religious-ideological factor has been strengthening, which is more typical for the Middle East and South Asia. Thus, in contrast to the 20th century, geopolitical space is currently determined primarily not by geographical or physical boundaries, but rather by economic, military-political, civilizational, cultural and ethno-religious parameters. The concept of political boundaries is increasingly acquiring a tinge of relativity, although these boundaries, of course, continue to exist, and between some regions they are even tightened.

Special and Common in the Methods of Combating Religious Radicalism, Extremism and Terrorism in the Central Asian States

In order to determine the possibility of creating a regional anti-terrorist system, it is necessary to identify the specific and common in the methods of combating religious radicalism, extremism and terrorism in Central Asia.

In *Kazakhstan*, Islamism has a Salafi-Wahhabi direction. This trend of Islam is particularly intolerant, fosters isolationism and encourages violent action. The nature of the terrorist attacks in Kazakhstan lies in their predominantly anti-state nature, as

was the case in 2011 and 2016. In general, according to the estimates of the US State Department, the law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Kazakhstan have demonstrated a high level of professionalism in detecting, arresting and preventing terrorist attacks in the country. The protection of civilians has become a priority. Kazakhstani legislation in the field of combating terrorism and extremism is regularly updated and amended, changes and additions are made. It can be said that Kazakhstani legislation in the field of combating terrorism is the most advanced of the Central Asian countries. In Kazakhstan, the emphasis is on preventing radicalization, especially among young people. Various social and youth programs and economic projects work. NGOs are also working in the mainstream of the rehabilitation and re-integration of convicts under the articles of terrorism and extremism, including relatives of convicts.

The counter-terrorism strategy of the *Kyrgyz Republic* focuses on countering the spread of violent extremism, preventing terrorists returning from abroad from participating in terrorist activities, and the departure of potential Islamists outside the country. Although the Kyrgyz Republic is seriously concerned about ISIS and other regional terrorism threats, the country has not directly participated in the activities of the global coalition against ISIS, mainly due to a lack of material and financial resources. The situation with informing the population about regional and national security threats associated with extremism and terrorism remains poorly organized, irregular and thus makes it difficult to conduct full-fledged research. The Kyrgyz Republic remains vulnerable to transnational threats, especially in the remote south, where border problems with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and porous borders can contribute to the creation of terrorist havens. Cooperation is hampered by factors such as interagency rivalry, lack of coordination between the SCNS and the Interior Ministry, and budgetary constraints. The government does not systematically screen potential terrorists, and does not have a shared biometrics databank at border posts. The exchange of information on a regional scale is rather limited and is carried out upon special request in a bilateral format. At the same time, there is a shortage of qualified specialists in Islam in the country and at the same time the general level of religiosity is growing, especially in rural areas. Most Kyrgyzstanis are radicalized abroad. At the same time, the country does not implement programs for the rehabilitation and reintegration of former prisoners in general and those who have been convicted of terrorism.

The situation in *Tajikistan* can be described as one of the most difficult in the post-Soviet space in terms of radicalization and the fight against terrorism. Directly adjacent to Afghanistan, the country is on the edge of the influence of extremists of various kinds. After the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan in 2014 and increased instability on the Tajik-Afghan border, the Tajik authorities continue to strengthen their military capabilities in conducting operational tactical operations. The country has the National Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan on Counteracting Extremism and Terrorism for 2016-2020 (Указ Президента Республики Таджикистан, 2016). The United States and Russia assist Dushanbe in carrying out numerous trainings, programs, provide material support aimed at strengthening borders, combating drug trafficking and terrorism.

Negative factors include interagency bureaucracy, poor coordination between major law enforcement agencies, and widespread corruption. A large percentage of the country's male population leaves to work in the Russian Federation, and according to reliable data, radicalization is taking place there. It is from the Russian Federation that Tajik young people leave for the Middle East. Among the soft measures, it can be noted that imams from Tajikistan were sent to Kazakhstan and Russia to communicate with Tajik migrants on the topic of the dangers of radical religious thought (Пути решения, 116).

The government of *Turkmenistan* continues its efforts to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies to counter terrorism, ensure border security and detect terrorist financing, working with international organizations and participating in training. To date, no terrorist attacks have been recorded on the territory of Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan pays great attention to its borders with Afghanistan and Iran, for obvious reasons. The country, due to its neutrality, is trying to restrict participation in international cooperation and other programs and projects. At the same time, Turkmenistan is a member of the Eurasian Group for Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG). As you know, the authorities and law enforcement agencies of Turkmenistan exercise total control over their own population, in particular over those practicing various forms of Islam in the country. All mosques and Muslim institutions are funded by the state budget and, accordingly, are under state control. Any radical extremist groups that exist in Turkmenistan are small, underground and scattered.

Uzbekistan's security policy prioritizes the fight against radicalism and the fight against drug

trafficking. Like Tajikistan, Tashkent was deeply concerned about the security issue in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan's border control infrastructure varies widely, from a heavily militarized section on the Afghan border to loosely controlled areas along the borders with its Central Asian neighbors. Uzbek law enforcement agencies maintain their own terrorist list and contribute to Interpol's databases.

In Uzbekistan, law enforcement agencies effectively restrict unauthorized religious or political organization and access to unauthorized religious materials. However, Uzbek migrants working in relatively open Russia or in other countries can be recruited by violent extremists online or in person (Country Reports, 2018).

As a soft measure, the government uses the work of local communal communities (*makhallas*) and religious committees to identify potential extremists and conduct advocacy. Representatives of local communities themselves monitor the situation in their district for suspicious religious behavior.

Thus, the Central Asian republics are trying to coordinate and balance between hard and soft measures in the fight against terrorism and extremism. This balance is uneven, fragile, and in most cases the preponderance is towards tough measures. However, this does not mean that countries are not trying to change their attitudes, tactics and strategies towards a more liberal and democratic approach. Another important factor hindering research in this area is the lack of transparency and inaccessibility of information from government agencies.

However, there is also an optimistic forecast, according to which the situation is changing today. The emergence of radicals in the countries of Central Asia and Kazakhstan is not a mass phenomenon. Actually, their outflow to the Middle East means that within the framework of the Central Asian states, radicals do not yet have special opportunities to implement their destructive ideas. ISIS is losing its appeal, and for the radicalized youth of the entire Islamic world. But they still have resources and old contacts, and they will make themselves felt for a long time. «Any new group in the region that is capable of decisive action can win thousands of young people over to its side. The danger lies in the fact that such a grouping may form not somewhere in the Middle East, but in Central Asia, possibly even within our societies» (Душанбе хочет говорить с ЕС).

All five countries cooperate to one degree or another within the framework of international organizations and on a bilateral basis in the field of combating terrorism and extremism. Participate in regional

exercises, trainings and projects. It can be said that the reasons pushing the youth of Central Asia towards radicalization should be sought in socio-economic factors, rather than in religious ones. One of the most important differences lies in the scale and degree of advanced legislation on counterterrorism, financing of the fight against extremism and terrorism, various kinds of border problems: lack of regulation, poor material and technical equipment, etc.

Perspectives for the development of the national security system of the Republic of Kazakhstan together with leading geopolitical partners

Kazakhstan's security policy has incorporated the most successful examples of other states in the fight against radicalism and extremist activities. If earlier the state in many respects reacted to manifestations of extremism, one can recall the tightening of the extremely liberal "Law on Religions", the increased responsibility for conducting subversive activities, now the circle of potential threats to national security is very clearly defined and each direction is being worked out according to the system – "non-admission and prevention".

The main goal of Kazakhstan in domestic politics has been and remains the strengthening of interethnic and religious harmony, the prevention of social, religious and other conflicts. The implementation of such a policy should further strengthen a tolerant environment in the field of interethnic, intercultural and interfaith interaction, foster a culture of interethnic communication and contribute to the prevention of manifestations of political or religious extremism in the state, region and at the global level.

For the Republic of Kazakhstan, the issue of creating conditions for creating immunity against the propaganda of religious and political extremist organizations is being actualized. It is necessary to develop close international cooperation, which can be used in the implementation of the task of creating mechanisms for humanitarian security. It is also obvious that deepening and expanding humanitarian cooperation in the field of information security will help the entire world community to adequately respond to the emerging complex threats to humanitarian security, including crimes against humanity, international terrorism and religious extremism (Жулымұхаметова Ж., 2017).

Along with these measures, it should be borne in mind that efforts to combat mercenarism include: prevention, control and minimization of consequences. Kazakhstan should pay the most attention to the first stage. The prevention of mercenarism

should include a whole range of social, economic, political, legal, organizational, ideological and other measures directly aimed at eliminating, weakening, neutralizing the criminogenic factors that cause the commission of this crime.

Analysis of the situation allows us to talk about serious changes in the field of interstate relations of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the past two decades. The fact is that the intensive trade, economic and other relations of the state with the outside world, on the one hand, naturally led to the creation of favorable conditions for socio-economic, political and humanitarian cooperation, on the other hand, it makes it possible to build contacts more productively to solve pressing problems, including number and lying in the field of countering extremism and radicalism. It is noteworthy that the strategy of the leading geopolitical powers has changed in relation to certain terrorist groups.

In order to counter the spread of radical ideas and extremism, in recent years, Kazakhstan has formed an agenda for a number of influential international organizations (UN, OSCE, SCO, OIC) in the direction of combating extremism and eradicating the causes of its occurrence. Cooperation of the state with international organizations can contribute to the development of effective mechanisms for the comprehensive protection of humanitarian security.

In the process of research, it was revealed that in recent years, in almost all countries of Central Asia, completely new, in comparison with previous years, trends in the manifestation of extremism and terrorism are observed, characterized by the following main factors. First, there are events with the traditional manifestation of extremism and terrorism in the form of terrorist acts and armed attacks on state facilities, contributing to a sharp exacerbation of the internal political situation of a particular country. Secondly, the level of criminalization is noticeably increasing in the process of political struggle in the countries of the region. This is reflected in the active participation of criminal structures in the struggle for the seizure and exercise of state power. Thirdly, the number of various mass protests is increasing, some of which result in an open confrontation between citizens against government officials.

The study showed that the situation in the field of national and regional security is influenced by a whole range of factors. A number of threats are objective in nature, associated with geopolitical circumstances, changes in the demographic situation in a particular country, the crisis of ideology and the reassessment of values in society. A certain part of the risks is caused by the transformations

taking place in the country and society and by the general processes caused by globalization. We are also talking about an increase in the level of threats to national security in the information sphere, which actualizes the problem of international cooperation in the development of cyber security.

The experience gained by Kazakhstan in the prevention of various conflicts can be useful to other countries in developing concepts of humanitarian and information security. Another positive experience of Kazakhstan is the measures to re-educate those convicted of radical extremism. Further stabilization of the socio-economic situation in the CA countries, and, consequently, victory in the fight against radical extremism and terrorism, is unthinkable without improving the quality of life of its population, ensuring employment and a decent standard of living for the people. If we consider socio-economic measures, then we are talking about the need for cooperation between government and business in the socio-economic development of the region.

Raising the economy, building up production capacities, creating additional jobs in the region is a very important task indeed. In order to avoid the growth of protest sentiments, it is necessary to diversify the economies of these countries by reducing their dependence on remittances and commodity exports, so that they can more effectively cope with the economic difficulties they are experiencing today. This can be done with large projects. One such project is Belt and Road (OBOR). The countries located on the Silk Road Economic Belt have accumulated some experience of interaction, and special structures have been created to combat the «three evils» (extremism, separatism, terrorism). The security structures operating in the New Silk Road area may be in line with the current level of threats. But the prospect of active opposition to this super-project dictates the need for a qualitative improvement in the work of anti-terrorist organizations, the use of new forms of struggle. The creation of a new international organization, especially in the field of security, must go through several stages of discussion and planning, which will take some time. But now it is worth starting to coordinate the existing forms of collective security. Observers from China could join the activities of the CSTO and ATC CIS headquarters structures.

When shaping medium-term measures to forestall threats to regional security in the form of radical extremism, it is advisable to focus primarily on identifying and eliminating the causes and conditions conducive to the growth of radical sentiments. At the same time, all levers for providing a preven-

tive impact on the real situation should be involved: political, social, economic, legal, educational, informational, propaganda, etc.

One of the topical aspects is the identification and suppression of the financing of extremist activities. It is urgent to define the sphere, or area, of interests of extremist and terrorist organizations, to identify the centers of origin of groups and organizations preaching the violent nature of actions, as well as structures that support and «feed» them materially. At the same time, according to researchers, there are serious shortcomings and omissions in the formation of a general policy of countering extremism and terrorism. Among them are: the lack of a common interpretation is reflected in operational work, since a dispute arises over the competences of different departments and services. The lack of an agreed understanding of what radicalization and extremism mean, say Kyrgyz researchers, “and their explicit or implicit identification with religiosity and Islam, not only causes conflict between different sectors of society, as well as between the state and society, but it also shapes the development and implementation of response measures – and, naturally, has an impact on their effectiveness” (АЛИМЖАНОВ С., 2016).

Consequently, preventing radicalization means a comprehensive package of measures aimed at preventing the emergence of extremist views and sentiments that can trigger violent action.

In modern conditions, there is a need to consolidate efforts with geopolitical partners to counter manifestations of motivated violence, ethnic hatred, and the growing involvement of young people in informal youth associations of an extremist persuasion. The system of counteracting extremism among the youth does not function effectively enough: the actions of state authorities are poorly coordinated between themselves and with their partners; the system of information exchange between strategic partners needs serious improvement. According to the experience of European countries, within the framework of measures to combat extremism, it is necessary to create special bodies whose work is related to the analytical and coordination activities of departments related to the issues of countering extremist activities of organizations.

Conclusion

Geopolitical trends are determining factors in the development of the trend of radicalism and terrorism in the space of Central Asia. It is the foreign policy interests of certain countries, under special circumstances, that can become extremely

important in the problem of radicalization of youth circles of society. The security of the region will also continue to be influenced by events in Syria and Afghanistan and the strength of relations between the United States and Russia in the fight against extremism and terrorism. Unfortunately, in general, the countries of Central Asia are creating dangerous internal conditions for recruitment with the prospect of constantly filling new recruits among young people.

It was revealed that the most successful example of combating the modern challenges of religious radicalism, extremism and terrorism is the combined efforts of the world community within the framework of international universal organizations, namely the UN, where the so-called convention mechanism for combating manifestations of religious radicalism, extremism and terrorism comes to the fore.

The countries of Central Asia, unlike European countries, have applied a more comprehensive approach – in addition to the ban, the threat of imprisonment and other violent measures, the states of the region have also proposed alternative options: amnesty, as well as after a period of rehabilitation, the opportunity to integrate into normal life, including the free return to their homeland of children and widows of militants (Operations “Zhusan” carried out by the special services of the Republic of Kazakhstan).

The predictive and analytical scenario for countries that have accepted and forgave Islamists is a possible terrorist attack under extremist slogans committed by the same persons in their own country against their own compatriots; returning militants may become new preachers and teachers for recruited recruits.

The study of the set of questions on the topic of the article makes the following recommendations:

A thorough study of the environment from which future extremists originate is needed to successfully combat terrorism. Therefore, it is so important to understand the use of “soft” measures: through communication, and other forms of cooperation, you can attract terrorists to your side, and even de-radicalize. A more comprehensive approach to the fight against terrorism and the spread of radical Islamist ideology should take into account the problems and needs of the local population and seek their support. This is how you can succeed in the long run.

Greater efforts should be made to prevent the radicalization of young people, especially in prison settings. Another weakness in the fight against

terrorism is the lack of inter-agency coordination. Different law enforcement agencies often duplicate each other’s work, or on the contrary miss certain tasks. This is especially noticeable in the interaction of the police and the military.

Kazakhstan’s position on IS should be built from the point of view of condemning and suppressing its activities in the country within the framework of international initiatives approved by the UN Security Council, without Kazakhstan’s military participation in the international coalition. The experience of other countries affected by the mass exodus of citizens to join ISIS on the policy of their return, criminal prosecution and rehabilitation and reintegration back into society should be monitored. The main areas of general prevention of mercenarism should be aimed at: organizing monitoring; improving the socio-economic environment aimed at reducing social tensions; organization of international cooperation in the field of combating crime, as well as the formation of a single migration policy at the interstate level, especially within the CIS.

Despite the work carried out by the state bodies of Kazakhstan and the countries of Central Asia, it is necessary to maintain vigilance and extreme caution. The CIS anti-terrorism center and other structures have information that ISIS plans to activate the so-called “sleeping cells” in the region to more destabilize the situation. Kazakhstan, having an advanced legal framework and strong partnership with geopolitical actors, has the necessary prerequisites for developing a common agenda for Central Asia to ensure security in the field of countering radical extremism.

Regional cooperation with other Central African republics should be developed as vigorously as possible. And not only through the SCO or CSTO. The country should have its own reserves. The countries of the region need a single coordinated strategy to combat international terrorism and extremism. This requires the integration of various aspects of counter-terrorism programmes, including political, economic and social aspects. Cooperation should be evenly implemented in all areas – border control, the fight against drug trafficking and arms smuggling, and more.

Despite the measures taken by the authorities of the Central African States in the field of combating radical extremism, they cannot be called quite effective. This is because less attention has been paid to preventive measures. At the same time, all levers of preventive influence on the real situation should be involved: political, social, economic, legal, educational, information, propaganda, etc.

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