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POLITOLOGIA

Regionalne polityczne procesy

Kalenova T.K., Ospanova A.N., Nurbayev Zh. N., Atayeva T.T.

Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

PROBLEMS OF WATER SECURITY IN THE WORLD

The term "water wars" was first mentioned in 1985 in the comments former UN Secretary-General B.B. Gali, who, appreciating prospects for conflict in the Middle East, suggested that the next the war on this earth will be for water. Then, already in the 1990s, this concept entered the political dictionary and, having migrated to the journalistic dictionary, became one of the main "horrors" of the coming XXI century. For the reason that, that the impetus for the development of this topic was precisely the Arab-Israeli conflict, the first scientific work on international water conflict studies were devoted to the Middle East settlement [1].

Gradually there was a change in theoretical approaches to water problem. As T. Nuff wrote, "under limited conditions, water becomes a very symbolic, poisonous, aggregated, sharp, substantial, complex, zero-sum, involving force and prestige, as well as prone to conflict and extremely difficult to permission".

A high-profile claim that raised the topic of water challenges on such a high level sounded so that due to the unprecedented growth demand for fresh water in the next century control over water resources will become an objective reason for armed conflicts. At This initial thesis that water scarcity leads to conflict and, in extreme form, to war, was not tested, but accepted by the scientific and political community as axiom .

However, an in-depth study of water issues has forced correct this approach. Already in the early 2000s. Proposed consider water conflicts in a more complex and multifaceted way, rather than only through the possibility of armed conflicts.

Gradually, "water wars" were replaced by such concepts as "international ", "conflicts of varying degrees of intensity", "international disagreements", and in scientific papers began to be placed under the question is the initial premise of the objective inevitability of water wars.

A significant contribution has been made to the study of the humanities aspects of the water problem in developing and least developed countries. The most productive tool was the concept of virtual water J. Allan , or the "water footprint" of A. Hoekstra and A. Chapagein, which made it possible to single out the water component in international trade and use it as a tool to resolve conflicts or reduce tensions in water-scarce regions. Research data contributed to the fact that gradually

water began to be regarded as an occasion for an international conflict, which, accordingly, led to a surge interest in various forms of diplomatic settlement of water disputes, techniques for negotiating over natural resources, strategies for economic cooperation.

Also in the 1990s. in the wake of the rise of liberalism was developed a range of highly specialized concepts, including the concept shared resources, global governance theories, epistemological concepts and others in relation to the global water problem, but the academic popularity of these theories in the 1990s somewhat faded as the renaissance of the state in the international arena [3].

Of course, the absence of water wars as such in the past is not means their impossibility in the future, but we have to admit that such wars were not fought for a number of reasons, and not only due to less pressure from the demand side and relatively lower alternative cost of water.

In J. Kalpakian's book, which presents groundbreaking research, on three regional examples (Nile, Euphrates and Indus) it is proved that the converse hypothesis that water conflicts do not lead to international conflicts, while international conflicts exacerbate water conflicts. In addition to the classic enough for water research indicators (hydrological characteristics of the basin, abstraction structure, water use regimes, political and military conflicts in the region) the category of national identity is used. This category also includes historical contradictions between basin countries. As a result, the author comes to the conclusion that the countries never fight for water as such, but become the causes of wars, so or otherwise, elements of the identity of states.

Discussions about the impact of the water challenge on development and security is still often conducted in terms of physical scarcity water, which greatly limits the foreign policy tools of that or another state and reduces the effectiveness of public policy in this direction. Despite the attention of the political elite, expert community and business in both developed and developing countries, the problem cannot even be stopped, let alone solved. The problem is much broader, mainly due to the indispensability fresh water for people's lives, their safety, economic development and, thus, the functioning of the states themselves. Out of this arises a number of features of water resources management that determine the nature of interstate competition for water at the present stage.

The main characteristics of interactions between states in water sphere are determined by the unique features of the aquatic resources. The main of these features, which determines the political the specifics of the role of water resources, is connected, according to F. Frey, with the fact that “Water is a vital and, at the same time, scarce commodity, unevenly distributed, and a significant part of water resources located in international water basins”.

Indeed, one cannot ignore the special value of water for life and the absence of substitutes. This in extreme cases (drought, drop in water level during the irrigation season) makes its value almost infinitely high, while under relatively normal conditions the value of fresh water drops sharply.

It seems to us that although the above definition of Frey absolutely fair, it is incomplete, because it does not reflect a number of the most important features of fresh water as a subject of the state and interstate regulation and competition. These features determined by the human right to water, the place of fresh water in providing national security, cross-border regulation and, finally, the special role of water in ethics and religion. All these phenomena are directly attitude to building state policy in the field of management water resources, international trade in water-intensive products, establishing control over the flow of international rivers.

Small volume trade in water leads to increased interdependence of states, but in the case of significant supplies already creates a one-sided dependence and becomes a source of threat to national security. This thesis concerns both trade in physical water (which trade is still undeveloped, with a few exceptions), and virtual (in the Russian language the literature also contains the terms "trade in water-intensive products", "Trading in conditional water").

Quoting A. Sen, “there is no such thing as an apolitical food problem”, E. Lopez-Gan and a number of others. The authors consider this view to be absolutely fair in relation to water problem⁶⁸. Therefore, the challenge facing buyer countries fresh water, is to determine the cost-effective and not national security threatening volume of imports of virtual and, in some cases, and "raw" water.

In a broader sense, we are talking about the formation of a national and the international level of the policy of effective intensive, and not extensive water use. At the same time, the creation and implementation of such policy is considered precisely in the context of the concept of ensuring environmental safety, which was proposed by J. Matthews in 1989 ⁶⁹ y. and was a reaction to concerns about a possible

increase in the number interstate conflicts over natural resources. Gradually the idea evolved into the concept of supporting the state of the biosphere, necessary for adequate human life. The result was two complementary approaches: the green growth approach (opportunities for further exploitation of natural resources by improving efficiency, renewable resources), actively supported representatives of the neoclassical economic school, and the concept "limitations of the Earth" (concept of planetary boundaries).

This concept is aimed at finding the optimal accounting short-term and long-term development indicators, primarily through the lens of food and water security. About how to practice, such different concepts appear and how they affect regional and global positions of individual countries. Cross-border regulation. Source of cross-border problems regulation is, in fact, the imposition of the political map of the world on the map water basins. There are 263 international basins on Earth (to such basins include those on whose territory two or more countries are located). They contain 60% of fresh water, and over the territory they occupy half of the earth's surface. International pools partially occupy the territory of 145 countries, and the territory of 21 states fully included in international pools.

At the same time, international aquifers, which also have the structure of basins, and according to UNESCO estimates there are 27374 of them, has received less attention so far. Moreover, for dry countries and regions such water horizons are sometimes the main and even the only source drinking water: in Saudi Arabia, the share of such sources exceeds 90%, in Sicily the groundwater aquifers provide over half of the island's water intake. After blocking the North Crimean canal, which supplied 85% of the peninsula's water, is actively the possibilities of active exploitation of groundwater horizons in the Crimea. However, predatory development of such horizons causes tremendous damage to the ecosystem, and in the future it can dramatically worsen the economic situation of the region ethical factor. Water throughout history played a system-forming role in the life of any society, determining routes of nomads, the history of the expansion of empires, the activity of those or other peoples in trade or agriculture. Beyond textbooks history, water has found its reflection in all, without exception, world religions. In fact, in the absence of developed international law, i.e. fixed generally accepted norms, the only source codified norms regarding water use today often turn out to be only religious texts, and some experts actively trying to deduce the best forms of water management from religious doctrines.

From the point of view of the concept of sustainable development it is impossible to increase the pressure on natural resources indefinitely and sharply improve the standard of living of large groups of the population, therefore the principle sacrifice, which is reflected in all world religions, can be an effective vector of environmental policy.

Thus, A. Chuvieko directly proposes to use religious norms proclaiming that a rich spiritual life, and not material wealth, is the source of happiness. A leading specialist in water conflictology, A. Wulff, has also recently been actively trying to integrate sacredness and religious component in the understanding and management of water conflicts. Accordingly, the ethical factor in relation to water conflicts must be taken into account both from a cultural and anthropological point of view, and from a legal point of view, since in a number of cases religious treatises become the source of customary law, and ancient norms as a tool of persuasion in the 21st century for poorly educated groups population in developing and less developed countries.

The global water problem and the indicated features of water resources as an object of international relations have a direct effect on the desire of states to extend their sovereign rights to these resources and, at the same time, use every opportunity to influence the government of other states sovereign waters. However, this universal reaction is by no means leads to a unified international political perception of water resources.

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