

УДК 355.01/327.8(7:585)«2001»

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THE REASONS FOR THE US WAR IN AFGHANISTAN IN 2001

The events of September 11, 2001, shocked the whole world. After all, the most powerful state has shown its vulnerability to the group of Al-Qaeda militants. The issue relevance is due to the fact that the US war in Afghanistan has been the longest in its history. Moreover, the territory of Afghanistan remains a dangerous region, as well as the export of extremist ideology spread by the Al-Qaeda group threatens the security of not only neighbouring states, but the region as a whole. The purpose of this research is to analyze the causes of the US military intervention in Afghanistan, the comprehensive study of US policy towards Afghanistan since 2001, and the identification of the reasons for the war to continue till the present day. US policy analyzed in the research is based on the theory of political realism, according to which the state is guided by the protection of its own interests, which had been the characteristic of US policy in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2002, and the theory of political liberalism, according to which the state aims to spread values, specifically the spread of US democratic values, the formation of a democratic state in Afghanistan and the democratization of its population.

The huge amount of research, memoirs and publicist literature is devoted to the political prerequisites for the intervention of troops of the international coalition, mainly the United States, into Afghanistan. The main precondition and cause of the Afghan campaign is the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, committed in New York by the terrorists of the radical Islamist movement Al-Qaeda. However, many researchers believe that this is not the only reason, since this operation is still ongoing.

After the events of September 11, 2001 in the USA, the administration of George W. Bush (2000–2008) proclaimed a global war against terrorism. The United States offered the Taliban government to extradite Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The offer was refused. In 2001, the United States, with

the support of NATO and other allied countries, sent troops to Afghanistan. Thus, in response to terrorist attacks and defending the interests of their state, the United States responded with a war against Al-Qaeda, the terrorist organization of Osama bin Laden. The strategy of war in Afghanistan formulated by George W. Bush was the confirmation. It was necessary to find those who are guilty of terrorist acts and bring them to justice. The two main objectives of US policy in Afghanistan were a military victory over the Taliban and the creation of a viable democratic regime in the country.

In particular, there is another opinion about the beginning of the US war in Afghanistan. Afghanistan occupies an important geo-strategic region, being located near key but unstable places like the Persian Gulf and the India-Pakistan border. And in the future, when oil and gas from Central Asia, which, according to the available estimates, are capable of competing in terms of reserves with the North Sea fields, will occupy a worthy place in the global energy market, the strategic importance of Afghanistan is likely to increase further. A country may be an important transportation corridor for the export of these energy resources and for access to the markets of Central Asia. In addition, Afghanistan can serve as a link in trade between Central and South Asia.

As a result of the research of the reasons for the operation «Enduring Freedom», it was revealed that the Taliban regime was eliminated, but the US military and political goals were only partially achieved. The main forces of the Taliban were not defeated, but rather weakened. Most of the leaders of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, led by Mullah Omar and Osama bin Laden, respectively, together with a large part of their armed units fled to neighbouring Pakistan, where they were sheltered among the Pashtu tribes or dissolved among the local population in the south and east of Afghanistan.

Moreover, from the very beginning, the United States was actively involved not only in the defeat of the Taliban, but also in the development of a new statehood of Afghanistan. Among other tasks there was the establishment of peace in the country through the formation of a multi-ethnic government elected by the Afghans without external interference.