

FORMATION AND POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF STRATEGIES OF AMERICAN-MEXICAN RELATIONS IN HISTORICAL TERMS (1860s – EARLY 21st CENTURY)

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Abstract: this article attempts to comprehensively and comprehensively analyze the political formation and further political and diplomatic evolution of American-Mexican relations. As certain foreign policy factors contributing to the emergence of the process of relations between the two states, it is worth considering the American-Mexican War of 1846-1848, WWI and WWII, as well as political events associated with the events of the Cold War. The strategic basis for the development of relations between the two neighboring countries was the work of the Monroe Doctrine and the implementation of the "good neighbor" concept by the United States. The article also shows a significant decrease in political and economic interaction between the United States and Mexico in the period after the end of the Cold War and a particularly low level of interaction between the two countries during the Republican administration of D. Trump.

Keywords: foreign policy, international relations, "cold war", USA, Mexico, "delicate balance", Republican administration, D. Trump.



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INTRODUCTION

A characteristic feature of US-Mexican relations is the fact that the development of trusting bilateral relations between the two states is a great interweaving of various aspects of domestic and foreign policy. Indeed, the long land and water borders between the US and Mexico, border security issues, the migration crisis, the fight against drug trafficking and drug cartels ultimately affect the domestic policies of both states. At present, many international situations force the United States to work in the Mexican direction much more closely than ever before.

US-Mexico relations (mid-19th century - mid-20th century)

The process of relations between the United States and Mexico can be called very contradictory and ambiguous in historical perspective. This trend can be traced directly at the stage of formation of US-Mexican relations in connection with the beginning of the political activity of the United States in this region. The territorial claims of the American government on the territory of the Spanish colony were primarily of a purely trade and economic nature. The administration of Thomas Jefferson was primarily interested in the territory of Texas. The economic expansion of the United States in Texas began long before the events of the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). The dynamic development of the American economy, which was of an extensive nature at that time (the expansion of cotton plantations of American slave owners), promoted the development of competition and forced plantation owners to look for new lands.

American planters found these new lands in Texas. "Such rapid development of Texas lands was also facilitated by a law in effect since 1820, allowing American planters to buy Mexican lands at low prices" [7, p. 15-16]. And also exempted American planters from paying taxes. As a result of this policy, by the start of the Mexican-American War in 1846, 60% of the population of Texas were Americans [9, pp. 156-157]. The United States tried in every possible way to annex the territory of Texas. The US government offered to buy Texas from Mexico or provided political and diplomatic support to the Anglo-Saxon population advocating the separation of Texas from Mexico. With the help of diplomatic institutions of the US government, Texas declared its separation from Mexico in 1836.

Mexico's failure to recognize the separation of Texas, the growth of nationalistic sentiments in both the American and Mexican ruling classes, supported by the original American ideology, which has a Calvinist foundation of "original predestination to salvation" led to the beginning of the implementation of an expansionist policy on the part of the United States towards

Mexico. During the military actions of the Mexican-American War, Mexico lost more than 50% of its territory, the United States annexed Arizona, New Mexico and Southern California. It is worth emphasizing that it was this war that laid a certain political, economic and ideological foundation for the expansionist policy of the United States towards Mexico. However, the second half of the 19th century in the system of American-Mexican relations can be quite rightly called the "era of friendship and political stability". This trend can be traced, first of all, in the political support of Mexican President Benito Juarez by the United States during the beginning of liberal democratic reforms and the reciprocal support of the Mexican government for the policy of US President Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War (1861-1865). "The government of the United States actively supported its "neighbor" militarily and diplomatically in the fight against the Anglo-French-Spanish intervention in the period 1861-1867" [2, p.194]. The last quarter of the 19th century can be fairly characterized as an active development of American-Mexican trade and economic relations. Therefore, in the early 1890s,

Mexico successfully went through the path of economic modernization, moving to capitalist forms of political and economic relations. During the presidency of Porfirio Diaz, American trading and agricultural companies were provided with favorable tax conditions for doing business. Thus, it is worth noting that at the end of the 19th century, the relations between Mexico and the United States were mutually beneficial and very friendly.

However, this political idyll was curtailed in the early 1930s. At this time, the political course of the Republican administration of President G. Hoover acquired a clearly imperial character. The ruling class of the United States intended to establish political hegemony in this region. Mexico was not spared by this branch of American policy either, a striking example of this policy was the intervention of the American Armed Forces in Mexico in 1914-1916. In the initial period of the formation of the revolutionary movement in Mexico at the beginning of the 20th century, the US government supported the liberal regime of Porfirio Diaz in order to support American trade and industrial clans. At the moment when the revolutionary confrontation in Mexico began to gain momentum and clashes began in the border areas, which created a threat to the security of large American capital, as well as to the citizens of the United States themselves.

Thus, the United States took a more active political position and decided on active military intervention. Thus, solving the problem of the border areas with Mexico. It is worth noting that the Huerta political regime, which replaced P. Diaz as a result of a military coup, was a supporter of increasing the English presence in Mexico, including English capital. Strengthening the economy of the British Empire in Mexico, which is a priority region for strengthening the American economy. "This policy of Mexico was at odds with the political and economic interests of the United States" [5, p. 11].

In addition, the United States saw the Mexican revolutionary movement as a threat of a rise in national liberation movements in Latin American countries. The situation was also gradually aggravated by the increased tension in American-British relations. According to the official position of the Democratic administration of President Woodrow Wilson and his associates in Congress, this military operation was carried out only to liberate Mexican territory from foreign political influence; in reality, the United States government was only concerned with its own political and economic interests [4, pp. 8-11]. After the end of World War I, the United States began to play the most significant role in the Western Hemisphere. The League of Nations, for its part, was not particularly interested in affairs on the American continent, which in turn allowed the United States to further strengthen its leading position in this region. The implementation of the "good neighbor" policy during the Democratic administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt contributed to the strengthening of mutual trust between the United States and Mexico. The result of active interaction was the signing in 1936 of a bilateral agreement called

"Additional Protocol on Non-Intervention" [13, p. 132]. In accordance with the signed document, the United States was to provide economic support in the area of investment in the light and mining industries of Mexico, and the purchase of Mexican agricultural products at preferential prices. The US government, for its part, was obliged to provide loans for the development of the Mexican economy, and the United States also carried out political acceptance of Mexico's closed economic model. A number of other political agreements were also reached, for example, an agreement on mutual non-interference in each other's domestic political affairs.

During World War II, relations between Mexico and the United States continued to follow Roosevelt's course and implement the political concept of a "good neighbor." The American government continued to provide political and economic assistance to Mexico. This policy was determined by considerations of military-political and economic security, as well as interests in the Mexican oil sector. Mexican oil reserves were now of interest not only to the United States, but also to the Japanese Empire, a member of the "axis" countries. Relatively friendly relations between the two countries developed in the context of the potential approach of military action directly to Mexican territory. From the moment the United States entered World War II, active military cooperation between the two countries began to be implemented.

The Pacific Military District was created, which was under the allied American-Mexican command. The gradual construction of American military facilities on Mexican territory was carried out. It should be emphasized that the creation of such a semi-formal military alliance contributed to maintaining Mexico's neutrality during World War II.

Relations between the United States and Mexico during the Cold War

After the official start of the Cold War, the main component of U.S.-Mexican relations was achieving a political "balance" in the diplomatic dialogue between the two countries. Differences in ideological issues about which regimes should carry out their political activities. A kind of "bone of contention" of this period was the disagreement between the United States and Mexico on the issue of

the political structure of the Central American countries. Both countries took opposite political positions regarding the coup in Guatemala in 1954 and the events in Cuba in 1960-1964, as well as other political events that took place during that period in Central America. However, there was a common understanding of

the need to maintain political and economic stability in the region against the backdrop of the growing geopolitical confrontation between the United States and the USSR. Based on the concept of confronting the "communist threat" in the mid-1960s, a political "balance" was found in the foreign policy interaction of the two countries. The contradictions that have developed between the two countries. It is worth noting that the 1980s became a very difficult period for Mexico and Latin America. The economic crisis that engulfed Mexico and the entire region at that time dictated its political and economic conditions. The Mexican elite saw its "...priority task as a way out of the economic crisis through liberalization of the economy, trade and financial integration into the world economic system, especially in the North American region" [3, p. 134].

The Mexican Question in US Foreign Policy during the George W. Bush Administration

The beginning of the new stage in the US-Mexican relations can rightly be called the victory of the Republican candidate George W. Bush in 2000 and the election of Vicente Fox from the Nationalist Party as President of Mexico in the same year. It is worth emphasizing that at the very beginning of the 21st century the development of bilateral relations was reduced to the similarity of the political views of the two administrations. George W. Bush, after taking office, took a course towards rapprochement with Mexico. The new president of Mexico needed to establish a dialogue with a powerful neighbor after the country had been ruled for 70 years by the National Revolutionary Party, supported in economic terms by the "good neighbor". Both sides supported the conclusion of a bilateral agreement in the area of immigration policy, having held negotiations on the conclusion of the NAFTA agreement, and a number of issues in the area of agriculture and the energy industry were also discussed, in which the American side was interested, first of all [12, p. 399].

Drastic changes in bilateral relations between the United States and Mexico occurred after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The Republican administration changed its policy in the area of national security, and Mexico became important to it only in diplomatic terms. Issues of further cooperation in the area of political and economic interaction during that period The Republican administration at that time tried to persuade the Mexican government to join joint anti-terrorist operations. In 2003, after the invasion of Iraq, the United States government condemned Mexico's position due to the lack of political support for the NATO military operation in the Persian Gulf, "Iraqi Freedom". A number of White House political experts considered this situation to be the beginning of a split between "...previously friendly countries" [14, p. 432]. The following decade was not marked by global changes in relations between the United States and Mexico. Mexican President

Felipe Calderon (2006-2012) focused his administration's activities primarily on domestic policy issues, in contrast to the course of his predecessor. However, current foreign policy issues did not allow the practice of political and economic interaction between the two countries to be completely left "overboard". First of all, the dialogue continued in the area of border security in the context of the fight against drug trafficking, which during the presidency of F. Calderon acquired epic proportions. The Republican administration of George W. Bush developed a draft agreement on combating drug trafficking between the United States and Mexico. Mexican President Felipe Calderon soon approved this project. As a result, after signing the relevant agreement, Mexico was able to "... receive financial and technological support from the United States in the joint fight against drug cartels under the political program "Merida Initiative" [10, p. 15].

US-Mexican Relations During the Obama Administration (2009-2017)

During the presidency of Barack Obama (2009-2017), relations between the United States and Mexico did not develop particularly dynamically. First of all, these circumstances can be explained by the political preferences of the new Democratic administration. During his first term in office, US President Barack Obama gave preference to the Middle East and economic problems during the global economic crisis of 2008 in implementing his foreign policy [17, p. 45]. Mexico was not given a special place, although during the election campaign, the

Democrats paid special attention to solving the problems of the migration crisis, continuing the fight against drug trafficking, thereby continuing the policy of the Republicans in this direction by interacting with Mexico. In addition, B. Obama's election team mentioned the possibility of revising NAFTA. The Democratic administration assumed a transition from a direct "show of force" to a multilateral foreign policy, including cultural expansion, diplomatic pressure and other aspects of "soft power". The delicate issue of migration was never reconsidered during the presidency of Barack Obama. The previously promised reform of migration legislation failed to materialize due to the resistance of the conservative faction of Democrats and Republicans in Congress. Another equally important issue, which also fueled tensions in the bilateral relations format, was the issue of deportation of Mexican migrants.

The fact that the problem of migration policy towards Mexico did not change during Barack Obama's first term should be attributed to the influence of the conservative part of the Senate [11]. The second term of US President B. Obama was also not marked by the implementation of the long-awaited reform in the area of migration policy.

The discussions in Congress on the issue of revising the NAFTA agreement never went beyond oral debates in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Having taken the presidential seat in the Oval Office, the 44th President of the United States agreed with the Senate to not consider the issue of not amending the free trade agreement. After all, editing it or even abandoning the agreement could entail unwanted problems with business representatives. Therefore, the NAFTA agreement was never amended during the presidency of Barack Obama. It is also worth highlighting an important point, which consisted of the initiative of the administration of Democratic President Barack Obama regarding the implementation of the strategy of "two strategic rings"

- transatlantic and Pacific [Sudarev, 2017 p. 21]. In implementing this program, the Barack Obama administration sought to "cut off" the states of the Caribbean and Latin America from the main trade and economic routes. It is in this aspect of the first strategic partner in the Latin American region.

It was during the second term of the presidency of Barack Obama that the concept of "Trans-Pacific Partnership" began to be implemented. Another important direction of development of bilateral relations between the United States and Mexico during the two terms of the Democratic President Barack Obama was the continuation of the fight against drug trafficking. This cooperation was especially closely expressed in the adoption of a special law of the United States in 2009 on cooperation with Mexico and the adoption of counter-narcotics measures in America [6, p. 23].

If we talk about the area of illegal arms trafficking, the owner of the White House also took measures of national US legislation in the area of arms sales to the territory of a neighboring state. However, no particular successes were achieved in this area, primarily due to the fierce political resistance of representatives of the American military-industrial complex, who lobbied for their interests in Congress. Thus, it should be noted that the fight against drug trafficking and illegal arms trafficking were the connecting paths of American-Mexican relations, the dialogue in which was maintained even during the democratic administration of B. Obama.

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