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FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE IN THE SAHEL COUNTRIES: CONTEMPORARY ASPECT

The primary purpose of the study is to identify the peculiarities of the evolution of US and French foreign policy in the Sahel region from the 1990s to the present. The subject seems to be quite relevant because of its direct importance for understanding the current geopolitical processes in the Sahel region, which is one of the most complex and unstable regions in the world. Despite the availability of studies by both domestic and foreign authors that touch on various aspects of the foreign policy of the United States and France in the Sahel, a specialized, holistic scientific approach to the comprehensive study of their interaction in this region has not yet been formed. Given the growing terrorist threat, socio-economic problems, and international aggravations, such as Russia's war against Ukraine and the contradictions in the Gaza Strip, studying the actions of these global players is important for the international scientific community. The practical relevance lies in studying the foreign policy aspects of France and the United States in the Sahel region and using their experience to strengthen the position of Ukrainian diplomacy in the region. Two main methods were used to analyze the research subject, such as case and event analysis. Both methods made it possible to consider the key features of the problem and provide its abbreviated description. In this paper, an attempt was made to track the fluctuations in the foreign policy of the State Department and the Quai d'Orsay department associated with the permanent instability of this African region and the geopolitical challenges that shake our planet.

Key words: the Sahel region, geopolitical processes, the growing terrorist threat, the contradictions in the Gaza Strip, international aggravations, global players, the fluctuations in the foreign policy, geopolitical challenges.

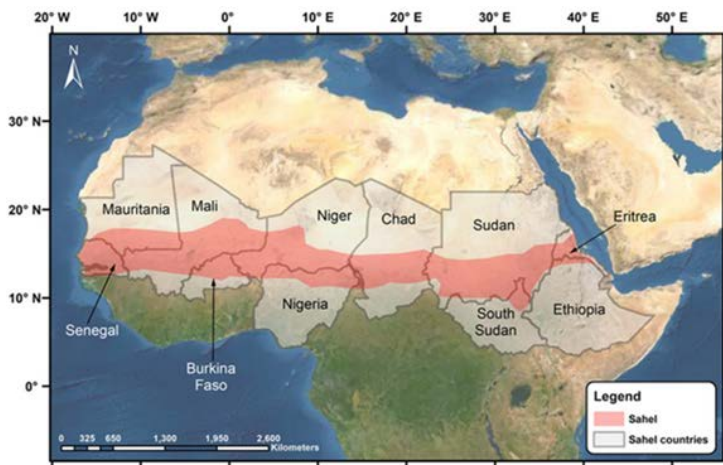
Introduction. The political activities of the United States and France in the Sahel countries deserve special attention because this region, which covers 6 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa has become an arena for complex geopolitical challenges and strategic interests of both states. The chronological framework of the article covers the beginning of the 21st century, when the countries of the Sahel began to

face serious political problems, which therefore prompted them to seek international support. This period lasts until 2024, which is an important moment in the context of modern international politics. In this volatile time, the foreign policy of France and the United States in the Sahel reflects not only the strategic interests of these countries, but also their response to the new challenges facing the region. The study of the dynamics of these relations makes it possible to understand how geopolitical factors affect the development of the Sahel countries and create global trends in international politics.

Materials and methods. The materials of the study are based on the content of international documents, research papers of international think tanks, articles written by national, and international scientists, analytical reviews of the mass media, etc. Some elements of the case study, event analysis, and fragmentary comparative methods were applied to find out how historical processes of colonization, decolonization, and geopolitical factors have led to turbulence and fluctuation in the foreign policy of the United States in the Sahel region and to analyze France's role as a former colonial power, its current political and military initiatives in the region, and the historical context of French influence. The instruments of discourse analysis were applied to identify the key strategic interests, methods and tools used by the United States and France to influence the political, economic, and security situation in the region.

The aim of the article is to examine the peculiarities of the evolution of US and French foreign policy in the Sahel region from the 1990s to the present.

Results and Discussions. The region of sub-Saharan Africa that shows the most significant decline of democracy is the Sahel. It is a semi-arid belt that extends from the Sahara Desert in the north to the tropical savannas in the south, connecting North Africa with the wetter areas of the south (ResearchGate, 2022, Annex 1).

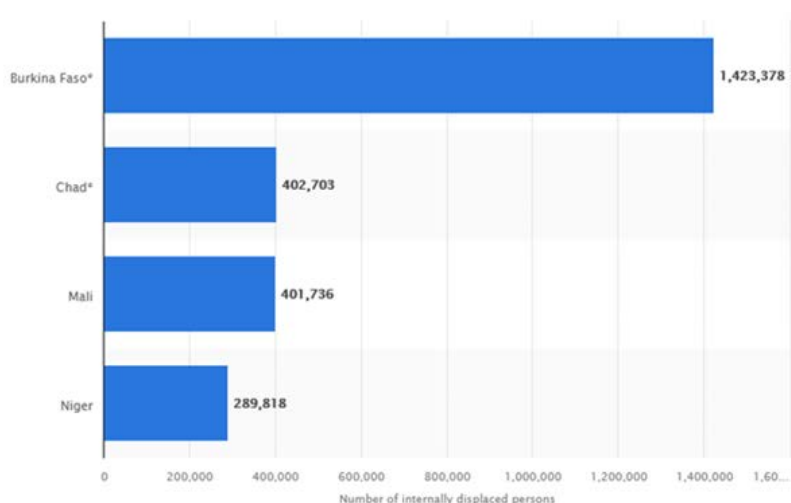


Annex 1. Map of the Sahel region and countries

Source: researchgate.net. URL: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-of-the-Sahel-region-and-countries_fig1_359808636

In the past few years, countries in the Sahel region have experienced several coups and attempts to seize power, which were caused by increased extremist violence (Yerman, 2023).

Researchers note a sharp surge in the activity of radical militants in the Sahel region in 2022. This region accounted for 43% of all deaths caused by terrorists. Experts in African politics predict that the situation will only get worse in the future as the level of violence continues to rise. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) warns that the situation in the Sahel 1 countries in 2022 has reached a critical point, as the ongoing violence in the region has forced more than 3 million people to become internally displaced for the first time. Humanitarian needs in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Niger are growing due to escalating violence, which is forcing more and more people to flee (UNHCR, 2022, Annex 2).



Annex 2. Number of internally displaced persons (IDP)
in central Sahel as of 2021, by country

Source: statista.com URL: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1237251/internally-displaced-persons-in-the-sahel/>

This poses serious problems for the stability of democracy in the region, accompanied by a deterioration in security for the local population.

The African continent has never experienced a lack of attention from the strong world powers during colonial empires. Each maritime European state sought to have at least a small, but its own possession, trade factory, or outpost. During the Cold War, the Sahel region also became an ideological front. For example, the Soviet Union spread the idea of African socialism on the continent and supported various dictators and "cannibals" as much as possible. Instead, France and the United States sought loyal regimes for themselves and supported them in opposition to the USSR.

The situation is even more complicated now as the number of players who are interested in Africa has increased significantly. This can be explained by several factors. First, geographical proximity. If for Europeans the route to Asia or the Amer-

icas required crossing the ocean, Africa was closer, and sea travel along the coast was safer. Secondly, colossal reserves of natural resources. The UN estimates that Africa owns 30% of the world's mineral reserves, including 12% of oil and 8% of natural gas. In addition, the continent is home to up to 40% of the world's gold reserves, as well as 90% of chromium and platinum (UN Environment Programme, 2022).

After independence, African countries faced serious difficulties due to socio-economic and cultural backwardness. Political regimes often and quickly replaced each other and were mostly corrupt, which was a great test for the countries of the Sahel region. Despite the fact that most countries in this region have significant mineral reserves, they continue to be economically dependent on external forces. This creates additional difficulties in achieving stable economic development and provides external actors with the opportunity to influence the internal affairs of these countries, which deepens their dependence and complicates the processes of democratization and development.

The main reasons for the instability of the Sahel countries are the high level of corruption and the weakness of the state apparatus. In general, African countries traditionally occupy top positions in the world rankings of corruption and low levels of development of state institutions and human potential. The education system on the continent is also experiencing significant difficulties, with only 46% of the population having secondary education, and only 26% have complete secondary and tertiary education. In addition, in the countries of the Sahel, as in many other parts of Africa, there is a significant gap between the state and society. Often there are no effective social relations between the government and the population, which actually leads to the "absence" of the state in the usual sense. This complicates the implementation of public policy, because there are no sustainable mechanisms for governance, responsibility or support for institutions that could ensure development, security and social services.

For the Sahel region, military coups are not unique in history, but the situation has clearly escalated in recent years. Almost every country in this region has had several coups since independence, that is, during the last decades (Kalchenko, 2024, p. 62). The periods of rule of military juntas were often replaced by short periods of democracy. However, even with the support of Western powers, many democratic governments proved ineffective. Countries often plunged into corruption and bureaucracy, which reduced the prestige of democratic systems among the population. One of the reasons for military coups is that at the beginning of the XXI century, the Sahel faced a serious problem of Islamic fundamentalism and jihadism, which has significantly worsened in the last decade. State borders in this region were determined during the colonial division of Africa, which was often carried out in Europe on paper without taking into account real ethnic, religious and cultural characteristics. Therefore, within the same country, different communities are often found, which are sometimes even separated by borders. This created opportunities for terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, which used the situation to call for border revisions in regions with compact Muslim populations, and began active action.

In such a situation, democratic and military leaders were forced to look for new support from outside, which Russia has become. The restoration of dictatorships in the region actually began when Moscow began to increase its influence on the African continent, gradually pulling it into its geopolitical orbit (Beauclair, 2023).

Moscow tried to present its role as a defender of traditional values and a liberator of poor Africa from the “colonial yoke”. And indeed, propaganda works: 87% of the population of Mali have a positive attitude towards Russia, and 60% of young people show strong sympathy for this country.

Another important tool for spreading Russian influence in Africa was mercenaries, in particular militants of the so-called Wagner PMC (now the Afrika Korps). Their activities first became visible in 2016 in the Central African Republic, where a civil war broke out four years earlier. The mercenaries helped break up the rebel coalition and ensured that President Faustin-Archange Touadéra retained power. As a token of gratitude, Touadéra allowed the Wagnerites to establish their main African base in the country. Today, these militants train the government army and guard the president himself (Yanyuk, 2024). However, their presence is accompanied by war crimes – at the beginning of 2022, they killed at least 65 civilians.

It is thanks to access to Russian military equipment and the absence of restrictions related to humanitarian or international norms that Wagner mercenaries have achieved significant success in the fight against insufficiently equipped and trained jihadists. However, they have not achieved complete success in any of the countries, which indicates the limitation of effectiveness even with significant military support.

This led to a series of uprisings in the 2020s, where the rebels mostly relied on Western support in their struggle. In 2019, a military coup took place in Sudan in which the army removed President Omar al-Bashir, who had ruled the country for nearly three decades (Ray, 2024). Sudan is a complex country where most of the resources and power are concentrated in the capital, Khartoum, while the regions receive significantly less, causing discontent among the local population. Due to this unequal distribution of resources and influence, unstable relations arise between the center and the periphery. As a result, some regions begin to arm themselves, and local tribes form their own armed units. This leads to the fact that the state loses its monopoly on the use of force, which creates additional conditions for military coups. Secondly, it is the result of conflicts that arose during the Cold War. They led to the militarization of peripheral regions where local armed groups gained access to weapons. This led to the widespread distribution of weapons among the population, which increased instability and contributed to the emergence of local armed conflicts.

Instability in the Sahel region is confirmed by another armed coup in Mali. Since independence in 1960, Mali has experienced five military coups, including the most recent in 2020 and 2021. Thus, the instability in Mali is a reflection of deep political and social problems that require a comprehensive solution. Despite periods of change, each of the coups turned out to be a temporary means of resolving conflicts without leading to a sustainable improvement in the situation. To stabilize the country, it is necessary not only to change government structures but also to work to restore public trust in political institutions and ensure good governance.

Military coups in the countries of the Sahel region cannot be evaluated without a detailed analysis of the events in Niger, since this case is of strategic importance for both France and the United States. On July 26, 2023, another military coup took place in Niger – the fifth since the country gained independence in 1960. A group of military personnel, including not military personnel but soldiers of the Presidential Guard, carried out a coup d'état, announcing the removal of the legitimately elected government and the creation of the Committee for the Salvation of the Homeland,

which should govern the country during the transition period (Ehrman, 2023). The second important reason for the coup was the precarious security situation in Niger, which, like other states in the Sahel, suffers from the activities of Islamist extremist groups (Hawkins, 2024). These groups have significant social support among certain segments of the population, specifically among nomadic tribes such as the Tuaregs. Niger is at the center of hostilities on most of its borders: six of the seven border sections periodically clashed with jihadist groups. Despite significant military and financial assistance from France and the United States, the government was unable to provide effective security, which caused discontent in society and increased criticism of the political leadership.

The third factor was economic instability, which deepened the country's socio-economic problems. Despite the availability of natural resources such as uranium and oil, Niger remains one of the poorest countries in the world. A large part of the population lives below the poverty line, and economic inequality only worsens social tensions. The lack of effective redistribution of resources and chronic problems with economic development increased the discontent of the population and became an additional impetus for the coup. Against the backdrop of economic problems, anti-Western sentiments are also growing, which are becoming more and more large-scale. Many Nigerians blame France for their problems, arguing that the former metropolis actively interferes in the internal affairs of the country, supporting the pro-French government. This, in their opinion, allows France to exploit Niger's natural resources free of charge. Such an opinion arose, of course, not without outside interference, in particular the interference of the Kremlin's narratives.

In general, political instability caused by both internal and external factors can be clearly traced in the Sahel region. Internal factors are the high corruption of governments, which significantly affects their ability to effectively govern countries. External factors are the growing influence of Moscow, which actively uses this instability to its advantage. Fearing their own people and political rivals, local leaders turn to Russia for help, becoming completely dependent on its support. Russian mercenaries and the military become the main pillars of these regimes, forcing dictators to obey the Kremlin's demands (Yanyuk, 2024). This partnership is not free: first, African countries dependent on Moscow are severing relations with Western powers, stopping the supply of resources, which is detrimental to Russia's opponents. Secondly, in the international arena, in particular in the UN, these countries support resolutions that are beneficial to Moscow. In addition, the Kremlin puts forward additional requirements that African leaders are forced to fulfill in order to maintain their power.

The turbulence and instability that has gripped the Sahel region pose a serious threat not only to African countries, but also to the international community. The region has become a point of tension that can negatively affect global security, especially due to the growth of terrorist activity, exacerbation of social conflicts, and a high level of migration crises. Nevertheless, the last decade has shown that a new "struggle for Africa" has emerged, with the Sahel occupying one of the central places. Despite all the above challenges and problems that exist in the region, all influential states are now interested in this continent. The United States, the EU, China, Russia and other countries have their own large investment projects here. Former President of the United States, Barack Obama, noted that if sub-Saharan Africa remains vulnerable to economic hardship, civil conflict, and political instability, then competition

for natural resources from the world's leading powers, including China, will only intensify. This will make it more difficult for the United States to protect its national interests on the continent.

The US administration attached great importance to relations with developing countries, in particular with African states. And it's not just limited to natural resources like cobalt, diamonds, and other African riches. In the coming years, large-scale changes are expected here, which could radically change the perception of Africa as a continent of constant hunger and poverty (Chappell, 2021). At the same time, the growing competition in the Sahel between world powers creates risks of escalation of conflicts and further destabilization.

After Donald Trump's victory, US policy towards Africa may take unexpected turns compared to the more predictable policies of the Democrats. Given the plans and recommendations outlined in the Project 2025 report, which was prepared by right-wing think tanks and lobby organizations led by the Heritage Foundation, significant changes in approaches to the African continent can be expected (Schaaf, 2024). For example, it is planned to strengthen cooperation with France to fight terrorism and contain Russian influence in North Africa. Instead of providing assistance in the form of grants, the report proposes to transfer financial support to African countries to the format of loans and focus on economic growth through the participation of the US private sector. As part of this strategy, it is planned to support African military forces to protect American interests, with a focus on several strategic countries to form mutually beneficial partnerships. It is also recommended to abandon US "cultural" policies, such as LGBT rights and gender equality, and focus on security and economic issues, which, according to Trump's advisers, will help strengthen common interests between the United States and African partners.

France's foreign policy in the Sahel region is largely based on historical ties that were established in colonial times, when most of the territories of this region, in particular Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger and Mali, were under its control. Despite the changing geopolitical context, France still seeks to maintain its influence in the Sahel. However, as practice shows, when the empire is not ready to "part" with its colonies for a long time, seeking to maintain its influence there, and then grants independence, often under pressure or even through military confrontations, these former colonies do not show a desire to develop close and friendly relations with the former colonizer (Malinovskaya, 2014, p. 146).

Many former French colonies in the Sahel region view any attempt to continue the French presence as interference in their internal affairs, limiting their desire for independent development and deepening relations with other partners. Instead, France continues to maintain significant economic dependence on the region and remains an important political player there. Africa's proximity to France, its rich natural resources, and its strategic importance only reinforce France's desire to maintain strong relations with these countries.

At the beginning of the 21st century, France's foreign policy underwent changes, moving from a "patronage" approach to a more pragmatic course. Among the main areas of cooperation with African countries, the military-political partnership that supports the international status of France, economic cooperation to stabilize the regional economy, and cultural exchange, designed to preserve the unique cultural heritage of Africa, stood out.

France has always been characterized by pragmatism in its foreign policy, even establishing relations with regimes that did not meet democratic standards to play the role of mediator. However, in modern conditions, against the background of political instability and growing pressure to protect human rights and democratic values, this approach is subject to serious criticism. Recent years have seen France's efforts to rebuild its image on the African continent, but accusations of double standards are becoming more widespread. For example, President Emmanuel Macron has strongly condemned the military coups in Mali and Nigeria, which sought to sever ties with France, but at the same time shows loyalty to Chad's military leader, Mahamat Déby, who wishes to maintain relations with Paris.

French diplomacy on the African continent has faced serious challenges in recent years that have undermined its image as a reliable partner and mediator, in particular in the Sahel region. Despite initiatives such as the 2021 Financing African Economies Summit, where President Macron called on the IMF to allocate \$650 billion in Special Drawing Rights to support African countries after the pandemic, significant results have not been achieved (Denis, 2023, p. 2).

In 2023, the “Summit for a New Global Financial Deal” also did not lead to radical changes in sustainable development finance and climate initiatives in developing countries, although it was agreed to allocate \$100 billion to support states vulnerable to climate change. However, French aid is increasingly perceived as politically motivated and ineffective. The discrepancy between political priorities and the actual allocation of resources is clear: Africa's share of French official development assistance (ODA) has declined from 52% in 2010 to 41% in 2016, with the Sahel region, identified as a priority since 2013, receiving only 10% of this aid.

France has traditionally taken a leading position in ensuring security in West Africa, especially in the Sahel region, where these issues are of the most acute importance. However, the expectations of international partners regarding Paris' leadership contributed to the consolidation of France's role as the main guarantor of stability in the region in the French political discourse. Africa remains an important component of the projection of French power and influence, yet Paris' policies in the Sahel often appear to be disordered and inconsistent.

The Sahel region is becoming increasingly important as a strategic center capable of influencing the security perspective of Europe and NATO, both now and in the future. Many world actors recognize this region as important for their long-term interests, as transformations are expected in the coming years that could turn the Sahel into a strategic partner for both the West and the East. China, in turn, is actively developing its position in the Sahel, using mainly “soft power” – providing humanitarian support, promoting economic cooperation, and offering mutually beneficial terms of cooperation (Lanata, 2023, p. vi).

Russia, another influential player in the Sahel region, focuses its policy on military cooperation, which ensures the loyalty of local governments. This allowed the Kremlin to gradually strengthen its influence in politically vulnerable countries in the region, in particular through the deployment of the Wagner PMC and the provision of military assistance. In exchange, Russia concludes lucrative contracts for the extraction of valuable minerals – such as gold and diamonds – in the Central African Republic and Sudan. Even during the war with Ukraine, Russian planes exported gold from Sudan, which helped replenish the Kremlin's budget. This strate-

gic approach allows Russia not only to strengthen its position in the region but also creates economic benefits by strengthening its financial stability in unstable times (Lanata, 2023).

The political influence of the United States and France in Africa is significantly decreasing, giving way to the positions of other global players. According to a 2022 survey by the African Investors Council, France was only in sixth position in terms of attractiveness to African countries, behind the United States, Canada, Germany, China, and Britain. China, which has been recognized as the most beneficial partner for African states, demonstrates the superiority of its strategy of long-term cooperation and economic benefits, which Paris and Washington underestimated. For the United States, which has always positioned itself as defenders of democracy, and France, the former colonial hegemon, the question arises: will they be able to adapt their foreign policy to become attractive partners again for the Sahel countries, which are now targeting new allies?

It is really quite difficult for the United States to form a new policy in the Sahel region now, which is due to a number of conflicts, including the war in Ukraine, the crisis in the Middle East, and internal political elections in the country. Washington's attention seems to be angry at once on some important issues, which prevents them from clearly defining a strategic vision for Africa, which can have far-reaching consequences. Ignoring this region now, the United States risks giving the initiative to other international players who are actively developing their influence here. In this case, the countries of the Sahel may gradually move away from Western partners, getting closer instead to China and Russia, which can significantly strengthen their positions in the region and change the balance of power to the detriment of the United States and its allies.

Despite all the challenges, the US elections determined the country's readiness to fight for influence in Africa. An important component of the strategy for the development of relations with African states, in particular in the Sahel region, is the strengthening of economic ties. To do this, it is necessary to continue expanding initiatives such as the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which stimulates trade and investment. The Prosper Africa program, launched by the Trump administration in his last term, also plays a key role in this process. It emphasizes the benefits of transparent markets and business practices, creating an alternative to the state models of China and Russia.

As for France, it is now seeking to transform its relations with African countries, shifting the focus from colonial legacy to partnership cooperation. Based on the principles of mutual respect and mutual benefit, the French government is developing bilateral relations aimed at combating global challenges such as climate change, countering terrorism, and ensuring stability in the region. To strengthen its "soft power", France actively invests in educational and cultural programs, promoting mutual understanding and exchange of cultural values (Mitkina, 2015, p. 208). Linguistic unity also plays an important role: French remains a key communication tool in business, education and cultural cooperation, which contributes to the strengthening of economic and cultural ties. In addition, French companies are investing significant resources in various sectors of the African economy, creating jobs and new opportunities for the local population, which underscores France's intention to be a reliable partner for the development of the continent.

In addition, it is important that France's new strategy does not fall under the influence of Brussels' bureaucratic schemes. Paris should reinvest in the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and promote its coordinating role in cultural and educational initiatives. To achieve effective results, it is necessary to define clear goals that relate to universities, book policy, support for the film industry, and the development of social networks. At the same time, the OIF should not be reduced to a simple administrative apparatus. The governments of the participating countries should commit to resolving issues at the ministerial level, and the board of the organization should consist of presidents and heads of government. France must show courage in addressing the issue of migration by establishing privileged relations with French-speaking countries in Africa. This will pave the way for the development of visa policies aimed at supporting the training and employment of African migrants, which in turn will strengthen ties between France and Africa, restoring shared history and cultural influence.

Conclusions. As a result of the research and analysis of the historical factors that led to instability in the Sahel region, as well as in determining the approaches used by the United States and France in their foreign policy, it is possible to come to the following conclusions.

First, the next ten years may be decisive for identifying key partners in this region because the results determine which of the international players will be able to maintain their positions and who will lose them. This process is due to several critical factors: first of all, the internal political situation in the Sahel countries themselves, in particular the military coups in Sudan, Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso, will directly affect the choice of their partners.

Second, the ability of the United States and France to adapt their foreign policy strategies, rather than simply continuing to modernize outdated approaches, will be crucial to restoring trust from African countries. Only taking into account these factors can international players hope for successful cooperation in the Sahel region. This situation leads to economic difficulties that complicate the life of the population. The local elite, looking for support, prefer partnerships with not quite democratic countries, such as Russia and China. Russia, in particular, offers military assistance, while China is developing economic projects, which look more attractive than the proposals of Western states. As a result, the support of Western countries, such as the United States and France, is gradually losing relevance among local leaders, which leads to a cooling of relations and opens up new opportunities for competitors' influence. This new geopolitical environment requires Western powers to rethink their approaches to the region in order to regain trust and become true partners for the Sahel countries.

Third, the United States is well-positioned to protect its interests in the Sahel region with a strong policy focusing on security and counterterrorism. However, in the face of global instability caused by factors such as Russia's war in Ukraine and the crisis in the Middle East, Washington needs to take effective measures to ensure stability in the world. Domestic political elections in the United States also affect the country's foreign policy because voters expect decisive actions from the government that can improve the situation both in America and in the global context. In this complex international environment, U.S. policy toward the Sahel may not seem effective enough, allowing competitors such as Russia and China to expand their influence in

the region. In order to remain a significant player in the Sahel, the United States must rethink its strategy, focusing on deeper cooperation with local states and developing tailored solutions that meet the realities of the region.

Forth, in contrast to U.S. strategies, French policy in the Sahel region faces growing challenges that could permanently undermine Paris' relations with local governments. Historically entrenched colonial ties no longer provide the support France had hoped to receive, as populations of countries such as Mali and Niger actively protest its intervention. The developing anti-French sentiments in the region threaten French dominance, because Africans no longer consider France a reliable defender of their interests. These changes in public sentiment point to the need for France to rethink its role in the region, moving from a colonial mentality to a more respectful partnership that would be in line with the current realities and aspirations of the Sahel countries. Instead of inconsistent decisions and impulsive actions, France should define its priorities that will reflect the new realities of a multipolar world. This means not only maintaining cultural ties and relations but also actively participating in the development of African countries aimed at strengthening their potential and democratic values. The U.S. administration attached great importance to relations with developing countries, in particular with African states. And it's not just limited to natural resources like cobalt, diamonds, and other African riches. In the coming years, large-scale changes are expected here, which could radically change the perception of Africa as a continent of constant hunger and poverty. At the same time, the growing competition in the Sahel between world powers creates risks of escalation of conflicts and further destabilization.

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ЗОВНІШНЯ ПОЛІТИКА США І ФРАНЦІЇ В КРАЇНАХ САХЕЛЮ: СУЧАСНИЙ АСПЕКТ

Резюме

Основною метою дослідження є виявлення особливостей еволюції зовнішньої політики США та Франції в регіоні Сахель із 1990-х років до сьогодення. Тема видається досить актуальною з огляду на її безпосередню важливість для розуміння сучасних геополітичних процесів у регіоні Сахель, який є одним із найскладніших і найнестабільніших регіонів світу. Незважаючи на наявність досліджень як

вітчизняних, так і зарубіжних авторів, які зачіпають різні аспекти зовнішньої політики США і Франції в Сахелі, спеціалізований, цілісний науковий підхід до всебічного вивчення їх взаємодії в цьому регіоні ще не сформувався. З огляду на зростання терористичної загрози, соціально-економічні проблеми й міжнародні загострення, такі як війна Росії проти України, а також суперечності в секторі Газа, вивчення дій цих глобальних гравців є важливим для міжнародної наукової спільноти. Практична значущість полягає у вивченні зовнішньополітичних аспектів Франції та США в регіоні Сахель і використанні їхнього досвіду для посилення позицій української дипломатії в регіоні.

Для аналізу предмета дослідження використано два основні методи, такі як аналіз випадків і подій. Обидва методи дали змогу розглянути ключові особливості проблеми й дати її скорочений опис. У роботі зроблена спроба простежити коливання зовнішньої політики Держдепартаменту у Вашингтоні й департаменту на Набережній д'Орсе, пов'язані з перманентною нестабільністю цього африканського регіону та геополітичними викликами, що розхитують нашу планету.

Ключові слова: регіон Сахель, геополітичні процеси, зростання терористичної загрози, суперечності в секторі Газа, міжнародні загострення, глобальні гравці, коливання зовнішньої політики, геополітичні виклики.