

Ideologization of Argentine foreign policy under the National Reorganization Process 1976-1983.

In the radio message delivered on 24 March 1976, the leaders of the armed forces, Lieutenant General Jorge Rafael Videla, Admiral Emilio Massera and Brigadier Orlando Ramón Agosti, informed the Argentine society about the removal of the president María Estela Martínez de Perón (known as Isabel or Isabelita) from her office, and seizure of power by the military junta composed of three representatives of the armed forces. The military coup was a response to deepening chaos and the emptiness of power that escalated in Argentina after the death of Juan Domingo Perón in 1974, and the seizure of power by his wife Isabelita.

The Argentine generals did not seek to repair the existing regime. When announcing the launch of the National Reorganization Process, they wanted to introduce a new state under the leadership of the armed forces, a "genuine democracy" based on order and traditional values. In addition to the large-scale political changes, which resulted in the domination of the armed forces at all levels of governance, the characteristic feature of the National Reorganization Process was ideologization of the state's policy. The generals who took power in 1976 had a very strong ideological identification, similarly to the whole Argentine power elite at this time. In this project, the ideology they adopted is defined as pragmatic nationalism. The nation was the main point of reference for the Argentine military at that period, and their actions were aimed at strengthening the Argentine national organism. They described the Argentine nation as based on moral values, identifying itself with the Western, Christian civilization, being free from threats both of internal and external character, and able to develop and increase its living space. The ideology allowed them to justify changes in political system, which was a response to political, social and economic problems resulting from the weakness of the previous Argentine governments. Adopting such an ideology brought consequences not only at the level of domestic policy, but also at the foreign policy level. Without a deep commitment in external actions it was not possible to strengthen the Argentine nation and increase its prestige. The influence of pragmatic nationalism Argentine foreign policy was present on several levels of analysis: the personal level, reflecting on particular choices of the personnel responsible for the creation of foreign policy, the decision-making level, so the mechanisms of creating foreign policy, and the level of political practice, related to the traditionally established circles of Argentine external activities.

The main objective of this project is to analyze the phenomenon of ideologization of the foreign policy of Argentina in the years 1976-1983, when the National Reorganization Project was conducted. The main hypothesis is that the Argentine foreign policy during the last military dictatorship 1976-1983 was determined by the ideology of pragmatic nationalism. This pragmatism was evident at the level of bilateral relations with other countries. An analysis of the structure of the Argentine political system during the National Reorganization Process allows to presume that the meeting of two factors, ideology and political practice, was possible thanks to the specificity of the political system, in which the key roles were played by the institutions dominated by deeply ideologized representatives of the armed forces.

The ideologization of Argentina's foreign policy caused changes in political practice conducted in international arena, and consequently, changes in Argentina's relations with the partners on subregional, regional, hemispheric and global levels. It also led to redefinition of the Argentine position in the Cold War bipolar system and the Inter-American system existing in the Western Hemisphere. Observations of concrete decisions allow us to assume that the result of ideologization of the foreign policy in the years 1976-1983 was a weakening of Argentina's position in both Inter-American and global system.

The result of the research will be a comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon of ideologization of the Argentina's foreign policy in the years 1976-1983, taking into account the conditions resulting from the specifics of the system and from the political changes during that period. The proposed research will allow to look at the foreign policy of Argentina from a different point of view than before, giving up the realist paradigm that has been a main approach used in explaining this phenomenon. Due to the interdisciplinary character of the topic, it will be necessary to use the methods that are typical not only for political science or, broadly speaking, social sciences, but also humanities, including history.