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TÍTULO: La Unión Económica Euroasiática en el contexto de los procesos de integración global: El papel de la integración regional euroasiática y su influencia sobre la política mundial.

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RESUMEN: En esta investigación se muestra el carácter dinámico del proceso de integración euroasiático, se analiza el papel que juega la intensificación de las relaciones entre la Unión Económica Euroasiática (UEE) y otros agentes de la política mundial, se realiza una enumeración de factores que confirman las perspectivas de desarrollo de la región como organización regional activa, tanto a corto como a mediano plazo, se recalca la influencia de la UEE sobre el sistema internacional del siglo XXI, y se demuestra el estatus de la UEE como unión económica y modelo de integración competitivo, capaz de ejercer influencia sobre las relaciones internacionales y de jugar un papel significativo en la política mundial, para de esta manera convertirse en un centro de poder.

PALABRAS CLAVES: UEE, integración euroasiática, procesos de integración internacionales, sistema internacional, centro de poder.

TITLE: Eurasian Economic Union in a Context of Global Integration Processes: the role of Eurasian Regional Integration and its Influence on World Politics.

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ABSTRACT: As the title implies, the research exposes the dynamics of the Eurasian integration process. It is analysed the role of EAEU intensification relations with other actors of world politics. It is proven that the listed factors indicate a positive perspective for the further development of the Union as an active regional organisation in the short and medium term. It is revealed the effect of international integration processes on the system of international relations of the 21st century. It is noted that the EAEU is a competitive integration association capable in a certain way to affect interstate relations, as well as able to play an important role in world politics, and thus can become one of the centers of power.

KEY WORDS: Eurasian Economic Union, Eurasian Integration, International Integration Processes, System of International Relations, Center of Power.

INTRODUCTION.

International integration processes, including Eurasian integration, represents an evolution of the modern international relations development taking place at the certain area. It must be stressed that the number of actors is increasing, precisely in the form of economic groups of states emerging within integration processes that affect the development of international relations. It should be noted that the buildup of, foremost, economic and energy potential through integration processes on a certain territory, within integration associations, forms new actors of international relations, capable to change the balance between actors of the world politics. Thus, it is capable to change the *status quo*.

International integration associations by its structure and activities change the relations between state and non-state actors. Integration associations affect its internal structure that is reflected by actions of the member states and thus this conduct affect the structure of international relations. In other words, it can be noted that the world is divided into groups of states, within which the interstate relations are of a fundamentally new character.

Integration processes through interstate associations are becoming more and more important at global level, regulating political processes and economic activity within the given territory of the member countries. It should be emphasised that strengthening the role of integration processes has led to the growing influence of regional centers of power. These economic and political mechanisms of the new world order represents independent actors of world politics. It must be underlined that contribution of the integration associations to GDP share in world total is increasing.

On January 1, 2015, a new level of Eurasian economic integration development has begun. Importantly, the Eurasian integration process through the EAEU represents a new economic and political actor of international relations of an integration nature. Thus, serious geopolitical and geo-economic changes in the system of international relations are being observed.

DEVELOPMENT.

Discussion.

The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is the result of historical development and political decision-making of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC). Eurasian Economic Union is one of the most dynamic interstate formations in the post-Soviet space.

The EAEU acts as a supranational association, but it contributes to the interstate principle. It must be stressed that the economic, energy, transport and logistics potentials as well as natural resources allows the Eurasian integration process to be competitive in the modern international economy. The

EAEU contribute the UN Sustainable Development Goals and partially participate in world development and on global governance, solving important global problems within a certain territory of the member states at the regional/local level.

It must be emphasised that in 2019, the EAEU celebrates its 5 years of establishing. It should be stressed that the EAEU represents an international interstate organisation, but taking into account the dynamics of Eurasian integration and the dynamics of the Union's development at the international level, it also represents "sui generis" i.e. a new phenomenon that in historically short period of time is dynamically developing and changing. The main drivers of the Eurasian integration process within the EAEU are the economic, transport, logistics, energy potentials as well as the institutional mechanism of member states interactions.

It should be noted that the Eurasian integration process is the center of attention of modern political science. In Russian political science, the phenomenon of Eurasian integration has began to be analysed relatively recently and is associated with the names of modern researchers and political scientists such as: (Glazyev, 2014; Kosov & Plotnikov & Toropygin, 2013; Kosov & Frolov, 2013; Vasilyeva & Kosov, 2014; Maryshev & Toropygin, 2014; Vasilyeva & Lagutina, 2015; Ageev & Mansurova, 2016; Konyshchev & Lagutina, 2016; Kurbanov, 2016; Glittova & Kosov, 2016; Glittova & Toropygin, 2018).

The initiative to form an integration project advanced by N.A. Nazarbayev, has acquired truly breakthrough strategic sense which has and will have in the future worthy place in the geopolitical structures of the future (A.T. Spitsyn, 2015). It must be underlined that Eurasia represents a colossal economic area. Eurasian integration possesses an organisational, legal, trade, political and geopolitical aspects, which is directly substantiation of its international importance in the system of international relations. Regional economic integration is considered an important initiative to achieve economic growth and development and thus, the formation of the EAEU is considered as a way to

accelerate economic growth and the success of post-Soviet states (G. Mostafa & M. Monowar, 2018). Of special importance is the fact that EAEU is composed of five sovereign states in a space of 20 million km², with a total population of 183.4 million people. EAEU GDP share of world total represents 3.59%.

Thus, as an important indicators of the dynamics of Eurasian integration can be considered: the general economic indicators, including industrial production; the volume of EAEU internal trade and volume of external trade of the Union; as well as the gross domestic product of the EAEU.

According to the Eurasian Economic Commission official data, the EAEU external trade represents the trade turnover, which in 2015 amounted to \$579.372 billion; in 2016, trade amounted to \$509.372 billion; in 2017 trade amounted to \$634.193 billion; in 2018 external trade turnover has increased and amounted to \$753.4 billion. Intra-EAEU trade represented in 2015 the trade turnover \$45.615 billion; in 2016 internal trade amounted to \$42.960 billion; in 2017 internal trade amounted to \$54.711 billion; and in 2018 amounted to \$59.7 billion. To sum up, the dynamics of trade turnover of the EAEU is increasing.

The main economic indicators of the countries affirm the economic growth of the national economies. According to the Eurasian Development Bank data, the real GDP growth rates for 2018 (from 2017) by country: Armenia by 5.2%, Belarus by 2%, Kazakhstan by 4.1%, Kyrgyzstan by 3.5%, Russia by 2.3%. It must be pointed out that economic growth of the member states is increasing and reducing inequalities within and between countries, and thus it contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is important to note that the GDP per capita in the EAEU member states is increasing, what surely proof of the economic growth of the Union and its national economies. As for the main socio-economic indicators of the Union, according to the Eurasian Economic Commission data, in 2015, GDP of the Union amounted to \$1,631.6 billion; in 2016 amounted to \$1,489.8 billion; and in 2017

amounted to \$1,810.8 billion; and GDP per capita PPP for 2017 amounted to (on average) \$16,832.70 billion.

In order to achieve a high level of integration, the EAEU assumes the level of an “Energy Union”, “Transport Union”, a “Single Transport Area” and a services market. It is also suggested deepen the fields of interaction such as: renewable energy resources, outer space, the environment, ecology and medicine.

Within the Union, the coordination of common industrial, energy, investment, transport, agricultural, and medical policies are carried out. It must be emphasised that by 2025 should be created: a single financial market, a common market for energy resources (gas, oil, petroleum products and electricity), and a single digital space. Moreover, by this year, the barriers to the free movement of goods, labour, services and capital should be eliminated. It should be stressed the importance of “Agreement on Common Principles and Rules for the Circulation of Medicinal Products (medical devices and medical equipment)”, signed on December 23, 2014, entered into force within the Union, and from 2018 a single market of medical products has started its functioning. It is also important to note that within the Eurasian Economic Commission, the process of discussing on the labeling of goods by means of identification is at the initial stage.

The EAEU Single Market contributes not only to the economic development, but also directly affects the lives of citizens of the member states, in particular by creating jobs, reduces social tensions. It must be emphasised that it certainly contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals for 2016–2030 adopted by the UN, such as “decent work and economic growth” and “the elimination of poverty in all its forms” at the regional/local level.

One of the main factors of an integration association development is the innovation sphere, the scientific and technological areas. For further development of the EAEU and deepening of integration is being formed a co-operation in the field of high technologies, including innovative projects. Within

the EAEU, Eurasian technology platforms were formed, what represent the co-operation mechanisms of the member countries in the scientific, technical, innovation and production areas. In this regard, it can be assumed the formation of the Center of High Technologies of the EAEU, which would contribute to the deepening of Eurasian integration, in order to create a common innovative and scientific and technological space able to compete.

The activation of the EAEU technological modernisation, including the activation of the innovation sphere has started. The Single Economic Space, according to the plan, supplemented by a single scientific, technological and innovative space, represent one of the formats of development and implementations of technologies which are called upon withdraw the economy of the EAEU member states to a new technological level (M.V. Shugurov, 2018).

One of the Union's priority policies is the sector of energy. It must be stressed a significant potential of the member states in this area. As for the energy sector, it should be noted a main indicators such as: oil production, gas production, coal, electricity generation. As for the energy potential of the Union, it should be underlined that according to EAEU official data, gas production is accounting 20.2% of world production; oil production is accounting 14.5% of world production; and electricity production is accounting 4.9% of world production. Eurasian integration will increase competitiveness in global oil and petroleum markets.

It must be stressed the essential role of nuclear energy. The EAEU contributes to the development of nuclear energy in the member states, in order to create a Single Energy Market of the EAEU. Thus, on May 8, 2015, the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council approved the concept on forming a Single Electricity Market of the EAEU and the programme for the implementation, which should begin to operate in July 1, 2019. Formation of such market involves the construction of nuclear power plants in Belarus and Uzbekistan. This will solve the problem of exporting electricity to other EAEU member states. An important area of nuclear power is the use of nuclear ship installations. Russia has

the largest icebreaking fleet in the world, which is extremely important in the development of the northern direction “One Belt – One Road” as part of the conjugation between the Eurasian Economic Union and the China's Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative.

It should be stressed that in the EAEU member states, except Kyrgyzstan, have a well-developed regulatory framework in the field of atomic energy use (M.S. Lizikova, 2019). In this regard, it is important to note that the supplier of reactor technologies within the EAEU is only Russia. As for other suppliers, these are China, South Korea, and the United States. In this context, it should be underlined that the development of this area within the EAEU certainly contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in terms of solving the problem of ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy sources for all; and ensure the availability and rational use of water resources and sanitation for all. To conclude, the atomic energy sector of the EAEU has a very high potential and it is a very important driver for the further development of the Union and for the strengthening of its role in the system of international relations.

The EAEU occupies the leading positions in the world: in oil production – the 1st place in the world; gas production – 2nd place, coal production – 6th; power generation – 4th place; steel production – 5th place; mineral fertilizer production – 2nd place; iron production – 2nd place; collection of cereals and legumes – 5th place; 3rd place in the production of potatoes and wheat; milk production – 3rd place, etc.; and in general, the EAEU is ranked the 6th in the world in terms of industrial production (I.V. Andronova, 2016).

One of the most important sectors of the Union is infrastructure and logistics. Continental and maritime spaces play a significant role in world trade. Importance of the EAEU geostrategic position makes it a potentially significant transit and transport hub connecting Europe and Asia. It must be highlighted the strategic role of the transport and logistics potential of the Baikal-Amur and Trans-

Siberian railways, the seaports of the Russian Far East and St. Petersburg, as well as the role of the Northern Sea Route as the shortest route between the Asia-Pacific Region and Europe. In this regard, it is necessary to emphasise that the length of railway tracks is 109.7 thousand km and represents 7.8% of the world's length, occupies the 2nd place in the world, and the length of highways is 2.6% of the world length and occupies the 5th place, representing 1,712.7 thousand km in the world. The geographical location of the interacting countries of the Union allows create transport corridors and other routes not only of regional importance, but also of global importance, through which the trade flows of Europe and Asia will pass, and, thus, the development of transport will certainly lead to increase the turnover (R.A. Kurbanov, 2016).

Of special importance is the fact that international integration processes, within the framework of integration associations, co-operate in the sphere of outer space (outer space joint projects and programmes, development of space technology). One of the most important factors affecting the status of the system of international relations is the ability to participate in the use of outer space, including the development of space technologies what is also carried out by international integration associations. It must be underlined that outer space is one of the main dimensions of the 21st century and plays a very important strategic role. Thus, it should be stressed that only two integration associations – EU and EAEU – possess the means of using space. Member states of within both Unions are working together and co-operating in this area.

Integration associations have developed a special outer space projects which are gradually beginning to be implemented. It is must be emphasised the adoption by the EAEU member states of the first joint outer space project in 2018. According to the Eurasian Economic Commission, the adopted EAEU joint space project unify scientific, industrial and government organisations for equitable access of EAEU member states to outer space services, for creating Outer Bank and for joint development of satellite production.

Within the Eurasian Economic Union, was created a Consortium of the Eurasian Technological Platform – “Outer Space and Geographic Information Technologies of the EAEU”; the project of the interstate programme integrated system of EAEU member states for the production and provision of outer space and geo-information services based on national sources of remote sensing data of the earth. It must be noted that Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Armenia are actively participating in this project. At a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in Bishkek on April 14, 2017, was marked a positive dynamic of co-operation in outer space area. Decision-making within integration associations is carried out in accordance with the principles of the UN, which determine the procedure for the use and protection of outer space.

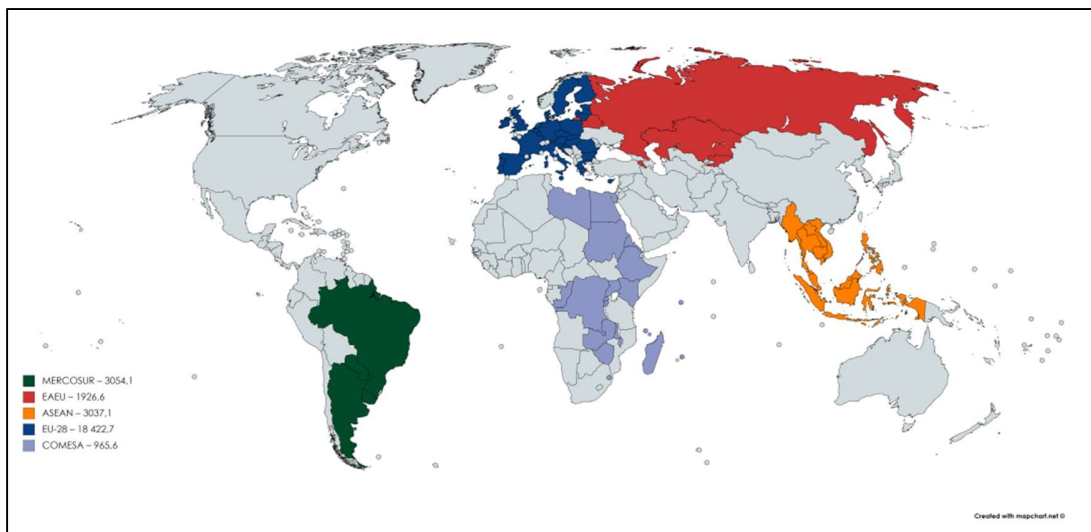
In accordance the typology of regional organisations, EAEU can be defined as a an “active regional organisation”, since it is created purposefully; established goals are largely achieved; trade and economic relations between the participating countries are intensifying; it do not change the mandate; functioning takes place at a very active level, including a high level of regular meetings (A.M. Libman & E.Yu. Vinokurov, 2016). One of the main criterion contributing to the formation of active organisations is the level of economic development of member countries and the population welfare indicator (GDP per capita), which has a significantly positive effect on the creation of an active regional organisation (A.M. Libman & E.Yu. Vinokurov, 2016).

The functioning of the EAEU and socio-economic indicators prove the acting of the organisation in the short and medium term. The success of the integration association depends on the growth of national welfare and density of real economic relations; and an important condition for sustainable long-term economic development is the formation of trade and economic relations based on efficient projects (A.M. Libman & E.Yu. Vinokurov, 2016). One of the key criteria is considered the effectiveness of the integration association common policies implementation. EAEU will develop for a long time, as it represents an “active regional organisation” as well as within the Union it is observed

the implementation of projects and common policies. A.M. Libman & E.Yu. Vinokourov (2016), notes that one of the main criterion of an “active regional organisation” is the average of GDP per capita, which should be about \$17.8 thousand, and also notes that the increase in GDP per capita increases the likelihood of active regional organisation. The economic data and the listed facts reveal real economic growth, which proves the Union’s capability to develop in the short, medium and long term and claim the status of a center of power, and thus change the *status quo*.

For the first time in history, a group of states can become an economic center of power in a given territory. The European Union (EU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), EAEU can be considered the most developed integration associations within which it is observed the most significant growth rates. Such integration associations contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and take part in world development and global governance, solving important global problems within a certain territory and within their authority. The spectrum of the main directions and the corresponding activity determine the place of the integration association in the system of international relations.

Figure 1. Active regional organisations of an integration nature and their GDP share of world total, 2018 (U.S. \$ billions).



Political and economic projects of an integration nature determine international political realities and possess the ability to change the *status quo* in the international scene. Indicators exposes to the stability of the integration association, its effectiveness at the international level, and at the meanwhile allow analysing the Union in the short and medium term. According to dynamics of the Eurasian integration development and the criteria of the “center of power”, it is proposed to define the EAEU as one of the centers of power in the short and medium term.

Table 1. Criteria for determining the integration association as a center of power.

	EAEU	EU	MERCOSUR	ASEAN
Dynamics and effectiveness of the integration association (general economic indicators, common policies)	+	+	+	+
Achievement of set objectives	+	+	+	+
Ability to promote and implement economic interests	+	+	+	+
Ability to develop interregional and trans-regional relations	+	+	+	+
Significant contribution to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals	+	+	+	+
Participation in decision making on the use of outer space	+	+	–	–
Ability to develop infrastructure at given territory	+	+	+	+
Single Market for Medical Products	+	+	–	–
Significant GDP share of world total	+	+	+	+
Ability to be one of the main economic partners	+	+	+	+
Economic growth of the Member States	+	+	+	+
Intensification of trade and economic relations	+	+	+	+
GDP per capita growth	+	+	+	+
Ability to improve the position in the poorest countries of the association	+	+	+	+

The number of actors in international relations is increasing, new centers of global governance are emerging, and this indicates the pluralistic nature of the system of international relations. The institutional form of co-operation in different areas relies on a stable legal and regulatory framework. According to Russian scientist N.N. Moiseev, the integration processes occupy a special place among the phenomena that characterize the processes of self-organization, and therefore the integration processes are very specific: territorially defined, trans-boundary aimed at giving specified measurement of the real geographic area – the situational space ‘without sovereignty’ (region) (A.B. Karimova, 2017). The dynamics of integration associations and its individual countries and forecast of their development indicate a significant change in the balance of power in the 21st century (L.F. Lebedeva, 2016).

The process of globalisation affects economically and politically the system of international relations. Globalisation relies primarily on the interdependence of economic relations. Bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements, regional political forums and formal alliances – all this contributes to the creation of a system of interdependent relations, at this stage to a large extent at the regional level, but with a tendency to expand global co-operation (Z. Brzezinski, 2004).

According to L.F. Lebedeva (2016), the period under the review is characterized by a change in the quantitative indicators of the growth in the number of new agreements; by the enlargement of existing blocks; by the formation of megapartnerships covering not only the leading world economic centers, but also developing countries; as well as the conclusion of free trade agreements between regional integration associations and individual countries including member states of other associations. The East Asian countries, like the European ones, also perceive the integration project as a way to ensure peace among themselves and gain power in the international arena (A.A. Baikov, 2007). Integration processes affect and develop the scientific and technical fields; for instance, the U.S. share in science and technology advancement, including innovation processes, is decreasing, while the share of the

EU and the Asia-Pacific region is increasing. There is no doubt that the economic potential of the new centers of world growth will inevitably be converted into political influence and will strengthen multipolarity (I.A. Istomin, 2016).

The convergence of natural resources, capital, and strong human potential will allow the EAEU to be competitive in the industrial and technological race, in an interest contest, for the creation of new jobs and advanced production; and along with other key actors and regional structures – such as the EU, the U.S., China, and APEC – to ensure the sustainability of global development (N.A. Vasilyeva & M.L. Lagutina, 2012).

One of the most important drivers for Union sustainable development in the long term is intensification of trade and economic relations of the Union at the interregional and trans-regional levels. It must be underlined a high degree of EAEU development and dynamics in strengthening interregional relations.

Interregional relations develop co-operation in the field of economics, security, and politics. In this context, it should be noted, first of all, the formats of the EAEU – ASEAN, EAEU – MERCOSUR, EAEU – SCO. The Swiss political scientist Heiner Hänggi notes that the inter-regional relations are based between: a regional organization with a regional organization; regional organization with a regional group; and regional group with regional group (K.A. Efremova, 2017). The Eurasian Economic Union provides an opportunity to implement five formats of co-operation. The EAEU established the main formats of international co-operation such as: Memorandums of Co-operation, Memorandums of Mutual Understanding, Non-preferential Trade and Economic Agreements, Agreements on a Free Trade Area, and observer-state status.

It should be noted that at present, Memorandums of Co-operation have been concluded between the Eurasian Economic Commission and Jordan, Morocco, Cuba, the Faroe Islands, Mongolia, South

Korea, Cambodia, Singapore, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Greece (in a declaration format), as well as with regional integration associations – ASEAN, MERCOSUR and the Andean Community.

Importantly, Memorandums of Understanding were signed between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Government of the Republic of Singapore, the Government of the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Moldova, and General Secretariat of the Andean Community. The EAEU is also negotiating on Free Trade Agreements with the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Serbia and the State of Israel. The EAEU strengthens co-operation with the states: Singapore, Thailand, Egypt, Cuba, and is also ready to develop relations with Guatemala and all of Central America. Interactions with the Republic of Cuba are actively developing. In general, it should be noted that the turnover increases.

Of special importance is co-operation between EAEU with Commonwealth of Independent States, Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), and Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO). This format of interaction lies in line with the strategic goals of these structures and the development of a number of Eurasian states, in ensuring the security of the Eurasian space, including deterring military conflicts in the border areas and resolving conflicts in the Eurasian space.

The main partner state of the EAEU is the People's Republic of China. It should be emphasised the importance of conjugation between Eurasian Economic Union and the Silk Road Economic Belt. Thus, it can be noted that China, as the first partner state, recognized the integrity of the EAEU. According to the Eurasian Economic Commission, the trade turnover of the EAEU member states with China is steadily increasing due to an increase in the EAEU exports by 40%, and imports by 26% from \$45.7 billion in 2016 to \$57.4 billion in 2017; in 2017, the turnover has increased by more than 30% and amounted to \$103 billion.

Within the conjugation of the EAEU and the Silk Road Economic Belt, Russia takes responsibility for security, and China for economic development (A. Krickovic, 2017). The conjugation of the EAEU and Silk Road Economic Belt develop infrastructure and industry, improve the business environment in the regions, reduce investment barriers, promote innovation, and also open communication channels between nations. The legal and normative basis considers the long-term period of conjugation.

In this regard, it is important to note the considerable role of the agreement between EAEU and Vietnam. The Agreement on a Free Trade Area between the Eurasian Economic Union and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam entered into force on October 5, 2016. The agreement on a free trade area with Vietnam marked the emergence of Eurasian integration processes beyond the post-Soviet space (N.V. Fedorov, 2018).

Considering the process of interaction in a broad sense, it is important to note the significant role of the EAEU agreements with Iran and India, which are increasing the trade, economic, transport and logistics capabilities of the participating countries.

Understanding the specifics of modern world order assumes the consideration of a new phenomenon of modernity which is represented by integration associations, playing an increasing role in many manifestations of the new world order (V.V. Zheltov & M.V. Zheltov, 2011).

Political institutions of an integration nature play a certain role in the system of international relations of the 21st century. The degree of development of economic integration is different. Integration associations represent various forms of integration on which depend their importance in the structure of international relations. The degree of interrelations reflects the level of integration processes in the world system. Integration associations within the institutional structure, through their own bodies, realise political power; they are a politically active element of international relations.

Research Aim.

The aim of the research is to determine the role of the Eurasian integration process in the system of international relations of the 21st century.

Research Method.

To conduct research and draw conclusions as a research method authors applied situational analysis. Within the framework of situational analysis were identified the following events of recent years associated with the: creating of Eurasian Economic Union; the increasing role of international integration processes; increasing role of Eurasian integration; formation of new centers of power; development of the conjugation of the EAEU and the Silk Road Economic Belt; deepening of trade and economic relations in the Asia-Pacific region; and with the advent of new challenges in the 21st century. This method revealed the role of the Eurasian integration process in the system of international relations in the 21st century.

CONCLUSIONS.

To conclude, the Eurasian integration process within the EAEU is developing dynamically, given the success of the stages of economic integration in a short period of time. To sum up, economic and energy factors are the main drivers of the Eurasian integration process.

Within the analysis, it was underlined that the economic and energy potential of the EAEU increases the role of the Union not only at the regional level, but also globally. The Single Market is being strengthened, the areas of interaction of the EAEU are expanding and deepening, barriers to the implementation of the four freedoms are eliminating.

The volume of internal and external trade of the Union is increasing. Common policies and projects are successfully realised. Implementation mechanisms prove high effectiveness. Logistic and transport links are developing. Legal and normative framework of the EAEU is being implemented, and thus

assumes to reach a high level of integration. The EAEU acts as an economic and political actor that changes the *status quo* in world politics. The EAEU contributes the UN Sustainable Development Goals and partly participates in world development and global governance, solving important global problems within a certain territory – at regional/local level.

EAEU deepens trade, economic and investment co-operation between the EAEU member states and with a number of Eurasian countries; with international organisations as well as with integration associations, including the conjugation of the EAEU and the Silk Road Economic Belt. As for the integration associations, at the present, the most important trading partner of the EAEU are ASEAN and MERCOSUR. The main partner countries of the EAEU are China, Vietnam, Iran, and India.

Currently, the missing link is the relationship between the EU and the EAEU. At present, there is a transformation of the “old centers of power”, which in political science were defined by the concept of “poles”, which were considered only great powers (states), to the new – “centers of power”, which in the 21st century can be considered not only great powers, but also groups of states in form of integration associations, since their influence is equal, and they are even able to exceed and compete to great powers on the world scene. EAEU is competitive and capable to affect interstate relations in a certain way and play an important role in world politics.

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