

THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND CHINA'S ANTI-TERRORISM POLICY

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The view on international terrorism in almost all countries is the same and sharply negative, there are some differences in the understanding of this problem. Particularly interesting is the position of the official Beijing. China is actively expressed its views on this subject, without ignoring any terrorist attack. The PRC does not take a detached observer position in the fight against terrorism. The country is not only showing compassion towards other countries, but also is actively fighting the global problem by taking a series of effective measures. For example, China is a member of the SCO, one of the priorities of which is the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism. However, despite not passive position of the official Beijing, experts point out that until recently, the fight against terrorism was not among the priorities of foreign policy of the state.

The terrorist attacks in Paris in November, the ISIL activities and the migration crisis in the EU contributed to the revitalization of East Dragon's policy. As a result Beijing began to pay more attention to its role in combating the problem. "China is also a victim of terrorism, - said the Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Wang Yi on 15 November at the summit of G-20 in Turkey, adding that "the fight against "East Turkestan Islamic Movement" (an armed group, whose goal is the secession from China of the northwest region Xinjiang) is an important part of the fight against terrorism". The increasing presence of China in the Middle East conflict also brought closer the problem to the borders of the state: on 18 November the terrorist group ISIS has announced the execution of the Chinese hostages. This event alarmed the Chinese government, raising the question of the problem solving to the fore.

On December 27 China's parliament passed a new counter-terrorism law [1]. It is aimed at countering terrorism within the country, and it will also contribute to the strengthening of international security as a whole, providing for the establishment of anti-terrorism intelligence center for data collection. Thus, China made a formal step in the fight against international terrorism, and expressed its desire to strengthen the global security framework.

However, it should be noted that the law has conflicting consequences. First of all, it requires from technology companies to provide confidential information to the government. In addition, the company's servers and the personal data of users will be required to be located on the territory of the PRC. Secondly, the law limits the ability of the media, by imposing of a ban on the reports about the terrorist activities details, as well as the mass media coverage of "cruel and inhuman" scenes. Third, this law grants the armed forces of the country the right to take part in anti-terrorist operations abroad. Thus, China expresses its position on combating international

terrorism, emphasizing the idea of helping countries in solving this global problem [2]. On the other hand, China, with the help of the law, tries to subdue the state media to its domestic policy.

The agency "Xinhua" notes that the law was adopted in the "difficult for China and for the world moment". In particular, China's news agency recalls the disaster of the Russian airliner A321 in the Sinai Peninsula, and the terrorist attacks in Paris. In the context of these events, the Chinese authorities, explaining the need for the law, focus not on the possibility of overseas operations, but on the internal threats. The Western media outlines the same position of the Chinese government. Thus, "Reuters", referring to Chinese officials, indicates the "growing threat from militants and separatists, especially in the volatile region of China - Xinjiang", emphasizing the information that these separatists are associated with the activities of the IS. At the same time, "Reuters", referring to human rights groups, notes the "doubts about the existence of a cohesive combat team in Xinjiang," and reports that the riots mainly related to the indignation of the Muslim Uighur population in the region, due to restrictions on their religion and culture". However, in this case if China on its own exacerbates the situation around Xinjiang, arises the question "What are the real reasons for the anti-terrorist law".

According to the experts for its adoption, there are several reasons [3]. Thus, the first is related to the Syrian conflict. Now it is too early to regard it as the main, since China is primarily focused on the protection of its growing business interests and is not going to interfere in the affairs of other states.

The second and main reason concerns the territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Their start has been made in June 2014, when China decided to construct artificial islands in the disputed waters. Thus, on these areas in the South China Sea claimed by China, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Vietnam. The tensest situation arose around Scarborough Reef and the Spratly archipelago, which is believed to be rich in oil and gas. In addition, the islands of the archipelago are of strategic importance: the construction there of runways significantly enhances China's position in the region, displacing into the background US ambitions in Oceania. As a result of the active Chinese foreign policy, the US refuses to recognize China's sovereignty over the region and from time to time carries out the maneuvers of warships near the disputed islands, than provokes the Chinese authorities to respond. As a result, the new hot hearth occurs, which could trigger a new geopolitical conflict and threaten the world order.

It should be noted that the Chinese anti-terrorism law was criticized by Western countries, when it was still under development. For example, US president Barack Obama and the US State Department were opposed to demands that foreign technology firms should give the Chinese government the encryption keys, which is a condition for doing business in China. Obama said that if China is going to do business with the US, it would have to change its minds on this issue and to make concessions. However, not all Chinese partners reacted negatively to the innovations of the Eastern Dragon. As for Beijing's ally, Moscow, on the contrary welcomed the adoption of the country's first in the history law on the fight against terrorism.

According to Chinese experts, this law is not something extraordinary. It is common practice, the attempt of the state by legislative means to protect their interests. Moreover, for the adoption of this law China has every reason to. Firstly, surely, Uighur factor here is crucial. Restless belt of tension - Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey - pushes Uighur nationalists for more action. And thus, the new law is a logical extension of the bill on national security, which was adopted in China in the summer of 2015. Thereby the anti-terrorism law has become accurate interpretation of certain articles of the bill.

Although the new law in the PRC was intended on a long-term perspective, it has already begun to yield results. It should be noted that with the help of such actions the PRC is trying to stick to a military strategy of "active defense", where is spelled out the need in the conditions of new threats "to win local information wars" and actively develop "cyber technologies". The questions of conducting military actions abroad remain open, since China today holds the position of "neutrality." In addition, according to Chinese strategists, world war is unlikely in the near future, and the international situation will remain "generally peaceful". At the same time the threat of "local wars" persists and will worsen in some regions of the world. And this law can contribute to prevent the Chinese intervention in these conflicts.

Pointing at a global result of the adoption of anti-terrorism law in China, it should be noted that by such action the PRC stressed its attitude towards the problems of the world and condemnation of international terrorism in all its manifestations. So, the Chinese point of view on this issue remains unchanged. This is confirmed by both the statements of China's leaders in the media, and the support provided by the authorities of the PRC of the States affected by international terrorism. Thus, it can be noted that in recent years China has made significant progress in addressing this issue, tightening measures to combat international terrorism and strengthening the global security framework.

References

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