3. Shanghai Communiqué 28 February 1972 [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: http://taiwandocuments.org/communique01.htm. – Date of access: 22.04.22.

4. H.R.2479 – Taiwan Relations Act [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: https://www.congress.gov/bill/96th-congress/house-bill/2479. – Date of access: 28.04.22.

Geopolitical Preconditions for Brexit

Новикова А. А., студ. III к. БГУ,
науч. рук. проф. Фрольцов В. В., д-р ист. наук

Great Britain is a country that has not forgotten its imperial past and is proud of it. Brexit is a unique event that shocked the whole world. But in order to explain the causes and prerequisites of this phenomenon, which entailed irreversible consequences, one should analyze historical events, the mentality of the British and their attitude towards European integration.

The political and economic power of Great Britain reached its apogee in the second half of the 19th century. After that, a long and outwardly inconspicuous process of "withering" began. Historically, Great Britain has written its own rules and has been an invincible queen in its games, relying only on herself. However, by the beginning of the First World War, the situation had changed.

A great power came to the painful realization of the fact that its geopolitical position in the world was seriously collapsed, and the status of the strongest power in the world could be lost. The change in the balance of power both on a global scale between the superpowers and at the regional European level required the United Kingdom to finally reconsider its place in the world and change not only foreign policy tactics, but also strategy.

So Britain came to the conclusion that strengthening ties with continental Europe is the most favorable way out in these conditions.

However, the British did not immediately decide to embark on the path of integration, but for a long time adhered to a policy of detachment from Europe. An attempt in 1960 to create a counterbalance to the European Communities as an EFTA failed, and London had to reconsider its positions in order not to loose the remnants of its influence in Europe.

Ever since the accession of Great Britain to the EEC in 1973, the history of European integration began to discuss the special political status and role of Britain in Europe. British society has not been able to achieve unity on these issues, and the minimal majority of supporters of EU membership has been achieved with great effort. Then, for the first time, a conflict of interest appeared, the political solution of which was never found [1].

The political ambitions of the British demanded to take the first place in Europe. Realizing that the UK was in danger of being left out of the decision-making

process on the European continent, Britain joined the EU, thereby abandoning its role as a superpower, and adapting to this role turned out to be a dialectically contradictory process.

The predominant part of British society and political elites denied a number of basic values of European integration. The British wanted economic integration and free trade, but were not ready for political integration, and, moreover, they deliberately rejected it in the future.

The paradigm of the ingrained identity of British society, the universal recognition of the national superiority of the British over other countries, could in no way be eradicated from their national identity. The change in the political vector and the direction, even the smallest one, towards integration was reflected in shock in the face of the British public, which, no doubt, was not going to give up its primary place under the sun [2].

Following the results of the 2016 referendum, it became clear that neither the ruling elites of the United Kingdom nor its population, having tried on a new role as an integrated member, could get along in it and accept their new position in the political arena. The desire to have imperial preferences and dictate their own rules of the game nevertheless prevailed in the minds of the people, marking the end of EU membership.

A detailed study of the very fact of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union revealed that its roots lie in the history of the UK's relationship with the organization, the very consciousness of the subjects of the United Kingdom, as well as in the crisis of political representation, characteristic not only of this, but also of many Western European countries. The country's historical identity and remoteness from mainland Europe also played an important role in the Brexit decision.

The country has always been an incomplete participant in European integration, and in many ways Brexit has become just a logical continuation of the problematic relations between the country and the EU.

As for the question of the new role of Great Britain in the world, which inevitably arose as a result of Brexit, it will largely depend on the strategy of building new bilateral relations with the main players on the world stage. Depending on which path the country chooses, its new political place in the world will be formed.

Литература

1. Липкин, М. А. Британия в поисках Европы. Долгий путь в ЕЭС, 1957–1974 гг. / М. А. Липкин. – СПб. : Алетейя, 2009. – 237 с.

2. Елкина, М. Л. Проблема вступления в ЕЭС в общественно-политической жизни Британии в 1961–1975 гг. : дис. … канд. ист. наук : 07.00.00 ; 07.00.03 / М. Л. Елкина. – М., 2008. – 270 с.