

Conference track «20.11 The Global South: its Position and Role in the English-Speaking World»

The Suez Crisis And Egypt's Fate Through The Prism Of Official Legal Documents

Academic supervisor – Скальная Юлия Андреевна

Розенберг Марк Александрович

Student (bachelor)

Lomonosov Moscow State University, Юридический факультет, Moscow, Россия

E-mail: rozenberg_ma@mail.ru

The issues concerning the Suez Crisis have been raised hundreds if not thousands of times. However, this seemingly long-studied topic still offers room for a wide range of reflections, from discussions of the conflict's root causes to the impact of this major international scandal on the fate of modern Egypt.

From the historic and legal standpoint, it is worth noting that the wealth of information concerning the 1956 Crisis was only recently made public. For example, in 2003, declassified documents from the Russian Foreign Policy Archives relating to the USSR's Middle East policy from 1947 to 1967 were published [1]. At the same time, previously classified documents, recordings of conversations and discussions between politicians and officials, have emerged into the information space. These revelations have literally upended the public perception of the situation, in some cases blatantly unmasking the top officials.

Certainly, the vast array of data will be difficult for any untrained reader to navigate. In this regard, I would like to highlight the fundamental work of Vladimir Rummyantsev, professor of the Department of Oriental Studies at Tomsk State University, who compiled the most significant documents for understanding the essence of the Suez crisis [2]. This manual indirectly highlights the relevance of the topic of the Suez Crisis to this day, 70 years after the resolution of the conflict.

Not only is it the jubilee date as well as the new data surfacing from the archives that encourage us to turn our attention once again to this milestone in global political history but also the currently growing tensions in the Middle East. The issue of delineating spheres of influence is incredibly pressing in international relations. For example, 70 years ago, experts spoke of the UK's inability to play an effective role in international affairs [5, P. 61], while today's trends toward expansionist policies and the use of brute pressure are forcing us to revisit the mistakes of the past and learn from them.

Thanks to the availability of transcripts of recordings, conversations, and official documents previously hidden in state archives, new opportunities are emerging for understanding not only the goals and objectives of that conflict and its participants, but also its impact on the future of the main victim of the Suez Crisis – Egypt.

Thus, studying one of the recordings of a meeting with the US President [3, P. 11-12], one cannot help but feel that Egypt's acting as if it had been an auction house calculating which further steps to take based on how the Suez Canal is being played out.

On the other hand, in Minister Shepilov's conversation with Egyptian Ambassador to the USSR Al-Kuni [1, P. 460-462] Egypt is presented as a fully-fledged member of the international community. Moreover, Shepilov acknowledges the key role of the Egyptian Suez Canal in international trade.

However, the most interesting document worth noting is the Firman of Sultan Abdulaziz [4], which authorized the canal's construction. This document plays a key role in the fate of the Suez Canal, yet it remains hidden from the public eye and is accessible only by official request.

However, once in the hands of a researcher, it opens entirely new possibilities for studying Egypt's role in the canal's construction and, most importantly, its attempts to repel colonial giants at a time when independence was still far from being an option.

Returning to the root cause of the crisis, namely the Suez Canal, it remains one of the main sources of revenue for modern Egypt. However, it's worth acknowledging that its unprecedented success has diminished in the last several years. For instance, according to the Suez Canal Authority's annual report, 12,758 vessels were to transit the canal by 2025, which is close to the historic low of 1975 [6]. This fact as well as others will be considered in the conclusion of my speech and commented upon within the framework of the current geopolitical trends.

In the end, it must be said that the Suez Crisis truly left a gigantic mark on the history of international relations, and the number of discussions related to it will not decrease as long as there are real experts in international relations alive, and the increasing amount of legal information on this issue will continue to provide food for thought for its researchers for decades to come.

Источники и литература

- 1) Ближневосточный конфликт: Из документов архива внешней политики РФ, 1947-1967: В 2 т. Т. 1: 1947-1956. М., 2003.
- 2) Румянцев В.П. Суэцкий кризис 1956 г. в документах: учебно-методическое пособие. Томск : Издательский Дом Томского Государственного Университета, 2017. — 82 с.
- 3) Foreign Relations of United States (FRUS). 1955–1957. Vol. XVI. Suez Crisis. July 26-December 31, 1956. Wash., 1990. P. 11–12.
- 4) Great Britain. 1876. Concessions, Conventions, Statutes, and Resolutions of the Suez Canal Company, with the Sultan's Firman. Printed by Harrison and Sons.
- 5) Hyam, R. & Louis, W.R. (eds) (1994) BDEE. Series A. Vol. 3. The Conservative Government and the End of Empire. 1951–1957. Part 1. London. The Stationary Office, 2000. 825 p.
- 6) Annual Reports // Suez Canal Authorities, official website. URL: <https://www.suezcanal.gov.eg/English/Downloads/Pages/default.aspx?folder=Navigation+Reports/Annual+Reports%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B>