NATIONAL PRIORITIES OF THE BORDER POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN: NEW PARADIGMS UNDER CONDITIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this article is to study the main domestic and foreign politics defining national priorities of the Border Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan under conditions of sovereignty.

Methodology: Scientific-theoretical base and methodologies of foreign and domestic border studies are an object of research. Features of existing modern international approaches in the research of Border Policy issues are considered.

Main Findings: Specifics of domestic border studies formation and its theoretical-methodological base were analyzed, on the basis of the works of the Kazakhstan Scientists publicly available. Theoretical-methodological bases of domestic border studies were defined.

Applications: The study may be used for further determination of the national priorities of the border policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and for the close study of new paradigms in border policy tendencies under conditions of sovereignty.

Novelty/Originality: The study generalizes the most feature streams and modern perspective tendencies of the border policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan what has never been done before in the selected points of view and by involving listed methodology.

Keywords: National Security, Border Policy, Boundary Safety, Cross-Border Security, Border Studies.

INTRODUCTION

Identification and justification of the new paradigms of a state and legal system of the sovereign republic as a priority of domestic science were updated upon gaining independence by Kazakhstan in 1991 and followed sweeping changes in all spheres: domestic and foreign politics, social and economic, cultural, etc. "Kazakhstan appeared in the epicenter of world politics during disintegration of the bipolar world. The new States appeared instead of the Superstrate, and special attention was paid to our country” (Nazarbayev, 2010).

Only the external borders of the former USSR were recognized from the perspective of international law. De facto, the newly formed republics were divided by administrative borders that created opportunity both for mutual territorial claims and for the claims from the adjacent states. This fact determined institutionalism of the state border which became an external fixation of the internal status of multi-ethnic Kazakhstan which accepted responsibility and needs for free determination. And the Border Policy of sovereign Kazakhstan has got the practical embodiment for the first time as a part of foreign policy strategy.

The practice of the Border Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan recognized that, first, an important sign and a spatial basis of any State are an occupied territory: land, mineral resources, water and airspace, continental shelf, etc. (Mosov, 2007). And, second, the border is the peripheral body of the State where its growth, force or weakness and all changes in “organism” of the State are revealed (Shumov, 2013). The uniqueness of Kazakhstan consisting in extensiveness of the territory and insignificant differences of climatic, geographical conditions, and in the extent of the land boundaries – over 14 thousand kilometres, among them: with Russia – 7,591 kilometres; with Uzbekistan – about 2,351 kilometres; with China – 1,783 kilometres; with Kyrgyzstan – 1,242 kilometres; with Turkmenistan – 426 kilometre (Nazarbayev, 2017), and presence of sea borders across the Caspian Sea with 4 countries: Russia, Turkmenistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, immanently defines the nature of the Border Policy and forms the features of interaction with adjacent countries (Saliy and Moldakhanova, 2018).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Studying of multi-sided range of the common theoretical and practical problem of the Border Policy formation of the sovereign State in difficult domestic and foreign politics objectively caused an integrated approach to the determination of the methodological research base representing set of general scientific and special cognition methods. Complex use of
synergetic, system and activity (to be exact, system and activity) approaches gave an effective tool for researches where the object of research is ensuring cross-border security and the analysis of processes and results of this activity.

Proceeding from the specified approaches, in terms of the methodology of the border research, getting complete, system idea of the border reality, activity of society and State, their interests and threats to these interests become possible, i.e. to form a true picture of the border world and to optimize boundary law-enforcement activities.

When forming the Border Policy Kazakhstan considers gained theoretical and practical international experience. In the boundary dictionary, the science about state border is defined by the term "Border studies" (The Border Studies, 2018). An object of its research is boundary spaces and it's subject – activities of state institutes for protection of the interests of personality, society, and state in the boundary space. The central core element of the general Border studies is the boundary system as a result of which functioning cross-border security appears.

The following is accepted as the purposes of the Border studies: description, explanation and forecasting of the processes and events of objective reality making a subject of its research on the basis of the opened factors, trends and regularities; scientific support to the state activity and its institutes for realization of the ruling functions on counteraction to threats (provocation) to the national security in boundary spaces. Border studies are considered as the science studying the world of the border guard, representing complete social-political phenomenon covering the boundary sphere of the adjoining people and their states where the border is the core (Bondarenko et al., 2001). V.I. Boyarskii suggested accepting Border studies as new scientific discipline (science) studying the nature, laws, and regularities of such social-political phenomenon as provision and protection of interests of personality, society, and state in boundary spaces (Boyarskii, 2017).

Border studies (for: boundary, frontier – being on border, near the border, and logos - study) is also defined as the knowledge system of the nature, laws and regularities of interest’s protection and security of the state, society and personality at the border and in boundary space (The Border Studies as the branch of social sciences, 2011). Border studies, as well as any science, have its inherent internal logic based on such basis as: historical; empirical; synthetic; formal and logical; philosophical and methodological; applied. Being the applied science the Border studies form a theoretical base of the state border policy as its major role.

The main functions of Border studies are: program and theoretical function: development of conceptual provisions of cross-border security, boundary relations and boundary activity; standard and regulatory function: legal support of the boundary relations and boundary activity; planned and analytical function: analysis and assessment of interests and threats in boundary spaces, methods and means of their neutralization; organizational and administrative function: "live" practice of boundary activity (Shumov, 2013).

In the former Soviet Union, the Border studies as independent scientific area gained its development since 1995 when the Border Studies Department was formed at the initiative of a group of Russian scientists at International Informatization Academy. For the period of 16 years Department held more than 20 scientific and practical seminars on Border studies problems, more than 20 scientific collections containing more than 340 articles of 288 Authors were published; the Paper of members of Border Studies Department was published "Border studies: methodology and methods of scientific researches".

Scientific generalization of researches in Border studies by the Russian scientists proceeds from definition of the border policy as "the activity of federal public authorities, public authorities of subjects of the Russian Federation, local governments, public associations, organizations and citizens, directed to strengthening of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Country, ensuring national interests and security of the Russian Federation in boundary space" (Boundary dictionary, 2002). The Russian state boundary policy is based on the Constitution – the fundamental law, other regulations, standard norms and principles of international law. Realization of the border policy is enabled through the coordinated and purposeful activity of its main subjects – as that federal public authorities; public authorities of subjects of the Russian Federation; local governments; public associations; citizens – according to their rights and powers (Boundary dictionary, 2002).

The given definition shows that besides the Russian Federation and its national interests in its boundary space the structure of the border policy objects also includes its national interests on external borders of CIS member-states.

Combination of philosophical and methodological and palynological - practical areas in studying of the border policy problems is more characteristic for the former-Soviet Border Studies (Vasilenko, 1995; Kravchuk, 2012; Kulakov, 2000; Musin, 2017; Nikolayev, 1996; Popov, 2000; Rodachin, 1998; Rybalkin, 1995; Shumov, 2013) – creation of the conceptual basis giving methodical tools for solution of separate and concrete aspects of the common problem.

The term "national security" which appeared more than a century ago as a justification of the USA interests in a zone of the Panama Canal became a basic, fundamental concept of modern western science in the context of theoretical motivation of political interests. Before, in terminology of most states prevailed such concepts as "defense potential" and "state security". The quintessence of all existing definitions "national security" consists of a priority of providing a condition when unconditional and successful development of all social, political institutes, public associations, and citizens is guaranteed, and the most favorable conditions for the personality, societies and the states are created. The terms "national security" and
"national interests" were introduced into wide scientific use in the middle of the XX century thanks to G. Morgenthau's Paper, considering the state and its external and internal courses in terms of political realism.

At the same time, the influence of other elements of the national security system happens constantly: environment factors – internal and external – and governing system actions. Provision of national security defines the activity directed to identification and prevention of various dangers, countermeasures, and threats to the personality, society and the state. The most rational way of actions of protestor state institutes for maintenance of due level of resilience of the nation and sovereignty of the state is the national security strategy determined by the developing military-political situation in the region and in the country and consisting of bases of national security system formation in six main spheres: foreign policy, military, economic, public, ecological, information.

Analysis of the western historiography of the issue allows to note that development of Border Studies problems in general and the border policy, in particular, is made on the basis of transdisciplinary approach, and issues of practical provision of security of the state are investigated in context of palynological, sociological and other sciences (Arndt et al., 2015). According to experts, the border policy, as an activity of the protest institutes on regulation of borders security system functioning, includes two components: ensuring internal and external security (customs, judicial authorities, military defense of the country, counterterrorism efforts) and ensuring political security (refugees, migrants, visa issues) (Saliy, 2018).

The same interdisciplinary approach to the border policy in terms of national identity is characteristic for the President of the International Society of Political Psychology, Professor of Harvard University V. Volkan: "National borders bear very important psychological stress in general. Like human skin, they fit the nation, helping it to keep collective self-identity. And the value of "this general skin" for each certain person increases under stress. Therefore, the security of the border gains ritualizes nature" (Volkan & Obolonskiy, 1992). This thesis is quite adequate to historically developed steppe ethno mentality. In fact, relation to the land here always had sacral character that was reflected in an ancient legend of the period of Mode-Chanyu (209-174 BC). Chinese sources which were introduced into a scientific use thanks to activity of Jacinth (born N.Ya. Bichurin), demonstrate opposition of two neighboring tribes at the time of hunni empire strengthening. The Leader of one of them – the Dōnhū tribe – wishing to rise in the steppe, demands a favorite racer, and then the favorite concubine from Mode. Despite protests of the advisers ChanyūHsiung-nu gives them, believing that any horse and any woman do not cost the good peace neighborhood. But when the Dōnhū Leader stated claims on disputed boundary lands, reasoning that Hsiung-nu tribe does not use this territory, Mode refused and declared war as "the land is the foundation of the state: how is it possible to give it?" (Bichurin, 1950).

METHODOLOGY

On the acquired international experience, the theoretical and methodological base of the Kazakhstan Border studies proceeds from impossibility and unacceptability of direct copying of concepts, scientific categories, and approaches. Development of the adequate scientific-theoretical system and methodologies contributes to further formation and development of the new scientific direction in the country which potential already gained a certain portion of recognition in the former Soviet Union. Formation of domestic science school of the border studies is a powerful guarantor of ensuring the national security of the Republic of Kazakhstan, its territorial integrity and sovereignty. So far, no case complex studies on scientific-theoretical justification of the border studies as new paradigm of the border security system development of the Republic of Kazakhstan which has to become a basis for further improvement of the state policy in the boundary sphere was carried out.

In fact, being a natural phenomenon in genesis and evolution of any society and the state, the border policy holds a specific place in the complex mechanism of multisector variety of politics as such and requires the level of its scientific support adequate to the status from positions of transdisciplinary approach, using available category system and concepts of geopolitics, political science, etc.

Development of scientifically based opinion about the concept "the border policy" is possible on the basis of the reasonable balance between the interests of the country on providing all components of national security, territorial integrity, sovereignty and national wealth of Kazakhstan and the interests of the country integration into the international field of the multipolar and unstable world. The strategy of the border policy as the systems of large-scale nation-wide measures, has to be directed to complex resolution of conflicts existing in the boundary sphere, resistance to the real and potential threats and provocations to national security, creation of the most favourable conditions for realization of goals and solution of the border policy problems of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Separation of the theory of boundary security requires the development of a concept of boundary security theory, identification of this theory essence, disclosure of its principles and regularities, development of the conceptual framework, definition of scope of application and objects, specification of goals and tasks.

The principles are basic fundamentals of the methodology of military and scientific border researches, predetermining their initial theoretical concepts, methods, hypotheses. At the same time, it is necessary to consider the universality of principles of knowledge methodology which are:
– The unanimity of the theory and practice. In the border studies it is impossible to plan an effective way of optimization of its provision, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the state without analysis of practical activities of national security of the state;

– Objectivity concept. Formation of the border policy of the state, as a system, is impossible without geopolitical, social and economic, demographic, cultural and other aspects of the state activity generally, its boundary area, in particular, in a uniform context of regional and sub-regional segments;

– Particularity concept which uses allows to define the key systemically important sides and regularities of the objective process of national security efforts and certain approaches to that assessment;

– Development concept (principle of historicism or principle of genesis);

– Regularity concept which requires conditionality of the phenomena, specific to boundary activity, taking into account relations and communications between them;

– Systematicity concept, i.e. system approach to the objects studied by the border studies;

– Principle of comprehensiveness of processes and phenomena studying. Implementation of the border policy in boundary space – is a difficult process, dynamic and determined by a set of factors. The border studies base on achievements of such sciences as sociology, conflictology, philosophy, cultural science, etc.;

– The unanimity of historical and logical. History of the state formation in a certain territorial framework, the process of interface to neighboring countries, for example, acts as a peculiar key to understanding of problems of national security efforts, political sovereignty, and territorial integrity, adoption of practical decisions on their realization” (Methodological principles of scientific research, 2018).

In addition, the border studies apply the basic principles of proof of hypothesis: verifiability principle – all theoretical assumptions have to be proved by the corresponding set of facts and regularities revealed in the course of scientific search.

The following principle – the falsifiability principle: each theory is only the admissible assumption and can be disproved in an empirical way. The scope of this principle in the border studies is already considerable, however statistical check of hypotheses, planning of experiments are also quite applicable within military scientific research.

Particular basic requirements were also formed on the basis of the general principles: principles of determinism and unity of external influences and internal conditions.

RESULTS

Prospects of further evolution of the border studies, improvement of its theoretical and practical application are connected with the successful use of these principles. According to these principles, the category system of the border studies is also formed where the blocks of reasons, structure, dynamics, typology of national security and some other blocks are defined as the main category blocks. If the modern border studies are the result of the knowledge process, then its methodology represents set of methods, ways of formation and achievement of this knowledge, its further expansion and deepening.


Domestic historiography of the border policy perspective presented by a number of articles, collective monographs, and manuals, now is in the center of scientific discussions and disputes (Goryachko et al., 2014; Asylov et al., 2015). Proposed definition of the boundary space "as part of the territory of border areas and other parts of physiographic components located along Frontier of Kazakhstan within which the frontier regime and control and security actions are performed providing sovereignty and national security of the Republic of Kazakhstan" (Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “About the Border of the Republic of Kazakhstan”, 2013) is disputable.

First, not only free economic zones became out of the boundary space, but also territories of Border Inspection Posts. Second, change of the wording in the Law about the Border of the Republic of Kazakhstan as of January 16, 2013 “… within which authorized bodies carry out boundary activity” (Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “About the Border of the Republic of Kazakhstan”, 2013) for “… within which the boundary regime is set and acts, control and security actions implemented providing sovereignty and national security of the Republic of Kazakhstan” (Goryachko et al., 2014) did not get justification.
DISCUSSION

Debating points are a statement that the state is a social system, but not political institute, and, for example, decline of external threats to the Republic of Kazakhstan in the ecological sphere till the attempts of “its use for burial of harmful productions wastes” and negative consequences of environmental disasters in adjacent states, having omitted the problem of water use of the cross-border rivers (Asylov et al., 2015).

The important directions of further scientific research should be considered: specification of system description and specifics of the border studies as the science about the Border of Kazakhstan; justification of principles, analysis and synthesis of approaches and methods of researches in the border studies; development of the main categories of the border studies, norms and principles of boundary activity; systematic research of provocations, dangers and threats to security of Kazakhstan in the boundary sphere, development of methodical system for their identification; justification of ways of optimization of authorized bodies activity participating in protection of the Border, boundary security of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The need for reinterpretation of the theory and practice of State Border security and protection under the dynamic development of the international community in general and the Republic of Kazakhstan in particular, new provocations and threats to the cross-border security of the country, defines the requirement of new concepts introduction to scientific use. First of all, these are required for further development of boundary science of Kazakhstan, improvement of methodologies of researches. These are such concepts as: “ideology of the border security of the Republic of Kazakhstan”, “strategy of the Border Service of Committee of National Security of the Republic of Kazakhstan”, “armed security of the border” and others.

Categories of the boundary science are a result of historical awareness on the basis of scientific research and gained practical experience in border security. These are objective as their contents are caused by valid signs and phenomena and do not depend on the person. At the same time, categories of boundary science have the subjective side as these are a result of knowing the essence of the Border protection at its certain stage of development.

The structured, logical conceptual and categorical system is also necessary to define a role and the place of the border security in the general system of national security of the country. The assignment of the border security place in the general system respectively defines not only its functionally practical framework but also the field of scientific research at its consideration as an object.

Apparently, Kazakhstan scientists – theorists and practitioners of the border studies – create a strong basis for further development and scientific justification of methodology of formation and functioning of the state policy of Kazakhstan in the boundary sphere. Basic concepts and categories of the border studies got justification in their works; fundamental principles of the policy research, its role, and place in a general political position of the country were defined.

At the same time, scientific-theoretical justification and recognition of the reality of the idea of the border security isolation as a subsystem of national security of the Republic of Kazakhstan and preparation of conceptual bases of the border security system functioning are necessary.

System study of the border security as a science is comprehensive studying of many components: systems of laws and regularities, systems of norms, types, principles, forms and methods of boundary activity; systems of the border functions and tasks and on the border, systems of the border policy and boundary means; systems and classifications of threats in boundary space of Kazakhstan, etc. Description and insight into these components – is the purpose and a task of the border studies as a science. Formation of an authentic theoretical-methodological basis of the new scientific direction – the border studies of Kazakhstan – and its further development will allow Kazakhstan scientists and practitioners to develop effective measures for the decrease in the level of social stress in certain border areas and will contribute to further development of economies of border areas.

CONCLUSION

Thus, special importance, scientific novelty of theoretical study and practical importance of search and implementation of decisions on common problems of the border studies and particular aspects of the state border policy, development of its concept in boundary space of the country are caused by unique geopolitical location of Kazakhstan, economic, social and demographic and ethnic features of its border areas, wide range of the real and potential threats to national interests and security of the country existing on the border and in a border-zone. Existing opportunities of government institutions on forecasting, identification, localization, and elimination of internal and external dangers and threats to the security of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the boundary sphere in absence of scientific support of specified activity are obviously not sufficient. In turn, it causes the need for a solution to a complex of essentially new theoretical-methodological and organizational and practical tasks that still did not get sufficient reasoning in domestic border studies.

Development of evidence-based approaches and recommendations for the public authorities, ministries and departments of the Republic of Kazakhstan which are directly engaged in development of strategic directions and their implementation for the benefit of protection of national interests of the country in the boundary sphere will allow to ensure security and protection of interests of the country including economic interests on the border and in boundary space.

Significant directions of further scientific research should be: specification of system description and specifics of the border studies as a science about the State Border of the Republic of Kazakhstan; justification of principles, analysis and synthesis of approaches and research methods in domestic border studies; development of the main categories of the border studies, norms and principles of boundary activity; systematic research of provocations, dangers and threats to security of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the
boundary sphere, development of methodical system for their identification; justification of optimization of authorized bodies activity participating insecurity of the State Border, ensuring cross-border security of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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