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POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN UKRAINE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN: HISTORY AND MODERNITY

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Ukrainian-British relations since the beginning of Ukraine's independence are considered. The interests of Ukrainian-British relations are presented at the present stage. The list of investor countries in the Ukrainian economy is presented.

Були розглянуті українсько-британські відносини з початку незалежності України. Були представлені інтереси українсько-британських відносин на поточному етапі. Був представлений список країн-інвесторів в українську економіку.

Formulation of the problem. The issues of Ukrainian-British relations seem to be of great relevance today. In the context of the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of our state, it is rather important to study Ukraine's dialogue with a nuclear nation that is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and has a strong economy.

Analysis of recent research. The problems of Ukrainian-British relations were studied by such scientists as A. Grubinko, V. Krushinsky, V. Mayko, G. Goncharov, M. Bilousov, N. Yakovenko, O. Sahaydak, P. Sardachuk, P. Ignatyev.

The purpose of the article is a study of the relations between Ukraine and Great Britain since the beginning of Ukraine's independence to present day and definition of interests between these two countries.

Main research materials. Ukrainian-British relations are bilateral relations between Ukraine and Great Britain in the field of international politics, economy, education, science, culture. Britain is the first country to recognize Ukraine's independence on the last day of 1991. In full measure, the establishment of bilateral relations between two states became possible only with the Ukraine's independence achievement [3].

On December 1995, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma visited Great Britain. The result of his visit was the signing of a Ukrainian-British declaration [1].

The initial stage of Ukrainian-British relations was characterized by restraint of the British side in the development of bilateral cooperation [4].

Kyiv demonstrated a significant interest in developing relations with Great Britain at a rather formal level. London in its policy towards Kyiv during the mid-2000s was guided by the vision that it would be in the interests of the United Kingdom to turn Ukraine into a full-fledged member of NATO. Later, in 2009 – 2013, the emphasis was shifted to support the development and signing of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

Today, the UK defines its interests concerning Ukraine as follows:

1. resolving the Ukrainian-Russian conflict in accordance with the norms of international law;
2. ensuring the effectiveness of domestic reforms by providing appropriate financial and technical support;
3. transformation of Ukraine into a reliable partner in the international arena and highest possible increase in bilateral trade in the future.

The British Government continues to declare and pursue a policy of active engagement in the Ukrainian-Russian conflict to provide appropriate assistance for domestic reforms.

The interests of Ukraine in the UK at the present stage:

1. attracting British investments to receive support for domestic reforms;

2. engagement of Great Britain to strengthen defense capability and increase pressure on Russia to implement the Minsk Agreements in accordance with the Ukrainian vision and for the de-occupation of the Crimea;

3. London's continuation of active policy on the international scene, despite the process of leaving the EU. Thus the United Kingdom will continue to be one of the main international partners of Ukraine.

Today, after the Revolution of Dignity and in the Ukrainian-Russian war, the support of the United Kingdom has only intensified.

Let us consider the structure of foreign investors in the Ukrainian economy and countries that provided material and technical support to the armed forces of Ukraine.

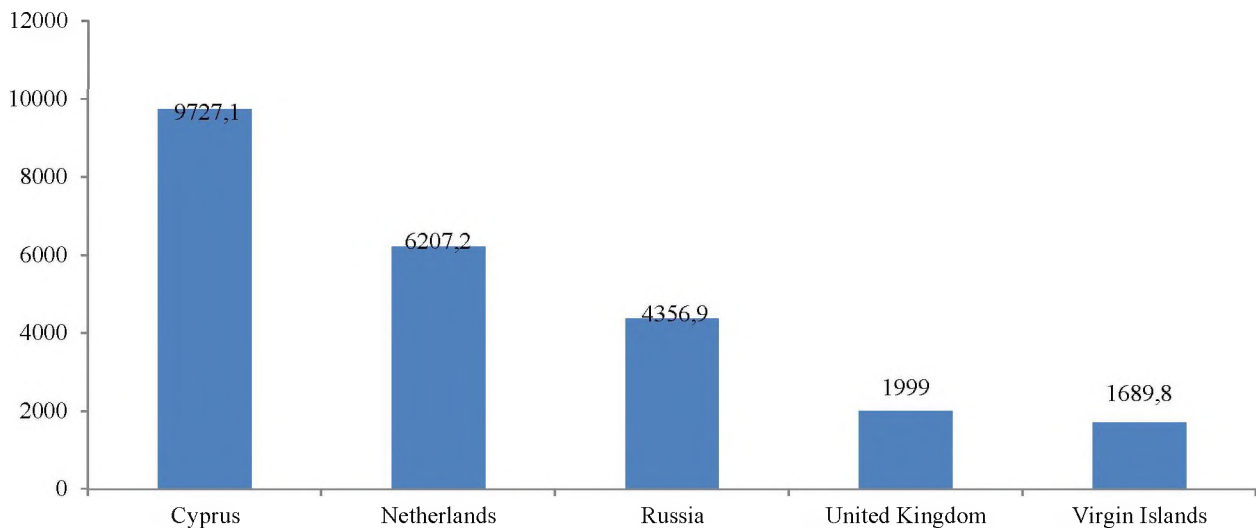


Figure 1 – Top-5 foreign investors in the Ukrainian economy (in US dollars)

British foreign direct investment in the economy of Ukraine as of April, 2017 amounted to 1.999 billion US dollars or 5.3% of the total. According to these indicators, Great Britain takes the 4th place.

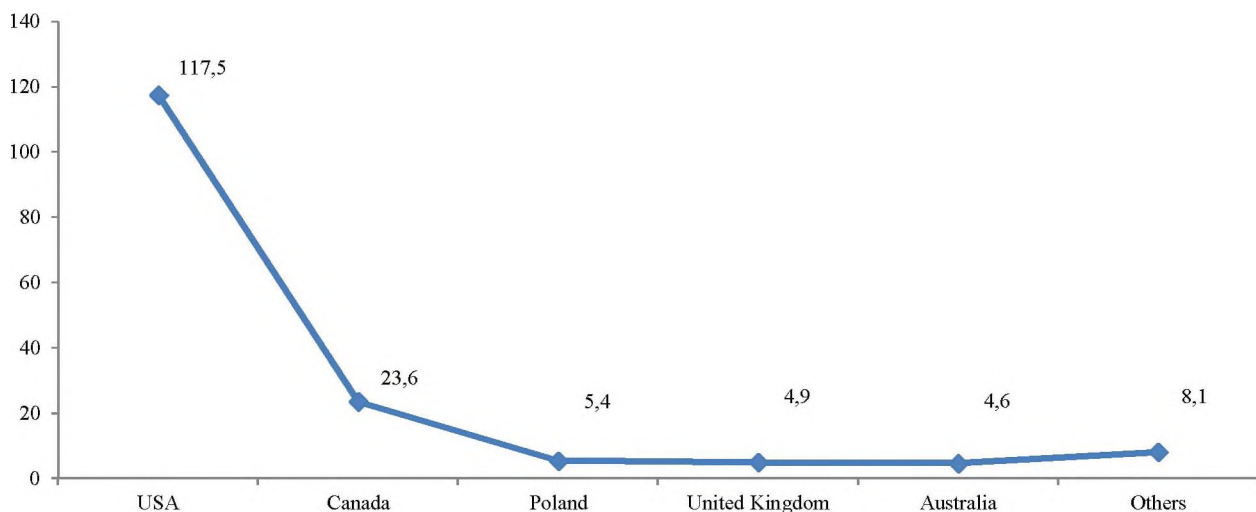


Figure 2 – Top-5 countries, providing material and technical support to the armed forces of Ukraine (millions of US dollars)

During the 2014-2016 the UK provided financial and technical support to Ukraine in the amount of \$ 4.9 million, or 2.9% of the total, entering the top five international donors.

The British presence is particularly noticeable and important in the food industry, the oil and gas industry, the provision of consulting services and trade. A large number of British companies or

companies with British capital in Ukraine create a certain illusion about the development of Ukrainian-British economic and trade relations.

British businessmen mentioned the following barriers to doing business in Ukraine:

1. political and economic instability;
2. corruption;
3. bureaucratization;
4. ineffective tax and legal systems;
5. problems with the protection of intellectual property rights;
6. lack of developed transport infrastructure[2].

List of recommendations for successful interconnections between Ukraine and Great Britain:

1. intensification of inter-parliamentary dialogue;
2. development of the clear scale for the success of reforms;
3. initiation of the simplification of the visa regime;
4. development of the cooperation with London to counteract the money laundering;
5. the start of the negotiation on mutual trade without an Association Agreement;

Conclusion. Today we can say that the interests of Ukraine and Great Britain complement each other. The British foreign policy is very promising for Ukraine and can bring considerable benefits in terms of a clear definition of priorities and a consistent implementation of the strategy.

Full and productive cooperation with the United Kingdom will be impossible without decisive steps from the direction of Ukraine. Today Ukraine does not use all the potential that has been established in bilateral relations with the United Kingdom. If Ukraine will approach the generally accepted European norms and standards, the effectiveness of Ukrainian-British cooperation will increase.

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