

REPORT

**by Dr.-Habilitat. MOULLEC Gael-Georges,
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**on the dissertation of Konstantin I. PAKHORUKOV
on the theme:**

***Foreign Activities of Regions (on the Example of Paradiplomacy of Territorial
Entities of the French Republic in the Beginning of XXI Century)***

**submitted for the degree of candidate of historical sciences
Science specialty 5.6.7. History of International Relations and Foreign Policy**

The topic of Konstantin I. PAKHORUKOV 's dissertation is more relevant than ever, when the results of the last election to the European Parliament in 2024 indicates wide doubts about the future of the European Union in its current framework. At the same time, France is losing its influence in various countries of the African continent, where its territorial entities have traditionally exercised paradiplomacy.

Moreover, the topic of Konstantin I. PAKHORUKOV's dissertation is also timely in the conditions of transition from the model of traditional centralized state to the implementation of the European model of regionalization, which implies the development of paradiplomacy of territorial formations in France.

The scientific novelty of the dissertation consists in the fact that the author considers the concept of regional policy of the European Union as one of the most important tools that transfer the right of decision-making from States to the level of subnational units.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusion and auxiliary materials - a glossary of terms, a list of abbreviations and symbols, as well as a list of used sources and literature.

The first chapter of the dissertation "Regionalization in the European Union: prerequisites and mechanism" is of particular interest as it provides an

analysis of the conceptual foundations of European regional policy and considers not only the main stages of regional policy development in the European Union, but also its inherent challenges and risks. Increased participation of local authorities in the activities of the European Union became possible due to the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity, as well as the implementation of the EU regional policy on the basis of European structural funds, which allowed to delimit the powers between European, national, regional and municipal authorities and to reorganize the functions of regional and departmental entities.

The second chapter of the dissertation “Reforming territorial collectives in France as a prerequisite for the development of regional paradiplomacy” is devoted to the analysis of the institutional impact of the process of European integration on the political-administrative system of France. The second chapter of the dissertation studies the main stages and specifics of the reforms of territorial collectives in France, which ensured the transition from a rigidly centralized state with a long history to a modern decentralized state (1919-2023). In 1982-1983, after the adoption of the Defferre’ Laws, opportunities opened up for the redistribution of powers between the state and state self-governments, as well as changes in the status of territorial units - communes, departments and regions, which received significant rights and powers, in particular, in the field of paradiplomacy.

The third chapter “French Regions as Foreign Policy Actors” provides an exhaustive analysis of the various types of international activities of French local and regional authorities. Thanks to close interaction with the European Union integration structures, both regional cross-border cooperation and regional paradiplomacy, which is an example of decentralized cooperation, have developed.

It should be noted that at the beginning of each chapter, the author provides a detailed historical perspective on the subject. The dissertation is

based on extensive English, French, and Russian sources. One of the numerous merits of the dissertation is the comparative critical analysis of normative documents, reports and recommendations of the European Union with the fundamental studies of Russian and Western scholars.

As a result of the analysis of the European Union's regional policy, the author proposes a periodization of the transition from a centralized State to various forms of decentralized cooperation and offers a new approach to enlightening the application of European regional policy in France.

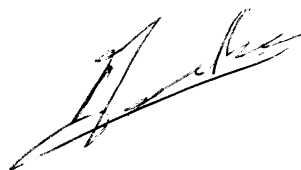
The analysis of the extensive source base allows the author to substantiate the concept of France's regional policy, now entirely dependent on the integration structures of Europe, as well as the role of French regions as foreign policy actors interested in the development of regional paradiplomacy.

It is hoped that the next study will be a logical continuation of the work carried out by the author, where it will be possible to consider the history of the European Union's foreign policy.

The author of the presented dissertation Konstantin I. PAKHORUKOV deserves to be awarded the degree of Candidate of Historical Sciences.

Paris, July 22, 2024.

Dr.-Habilitat. MOULLEC Gaël-Georges



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