

Danielyan (Eduard L.), Political Consequences Of The Strategic Position Of Armenia In Ancient And Medieval World Economy

From ancient times Armenia, being situated in the region of the crossroads of international trade, played an important role in the West-East economic relations. It was greatly stimulated as by the country's geographic position, as well as richness of the Armenian Highland in economic resources. Geography smiled upon formation and development of the Armenian civilization; at the same time Armenia's strategic position influenced greatly the political life of the country, having as positive as well as negative consequences. In different periods of time political-economic conditions changed owing to the rearrangement of the international forces shaping geopolitical atmosphere in the region of the western Asia, southern Europe and north Africa. Thus, in ancient and medieval times Armenia had to act within the frames of relations with Sumer, Akkad, Hittite state, Mitanni, Assyria, Babylon, Media, Persia, Greece, Parthia, Roma, Byzantium. They expressed their political-economic interests not only in peaceful but also in military ways. External conditions influenced the processes of political-economic centralization of the power in Armenia activating the latter's foreign policy in the way of entering the coalitions of allied states and strategically organizing buffer territories for the defence both of the country and the world trade centers, particularly certain parts of the Silk Road crossing Armenia and neighbouring countries.

The Armenian state political doctrine in the foreign policy questions had been brought into the line with the relations with allied countries not only on the basis of political but also economic interests. Thus Armenian kingdom's military relations had defensive character. In the course of long periods of time Armenia's material and military resources became the key issues in the policy of great powers that lead aggressive policy towards Armenia. Armenia's territories divisions and occupations together with economic devastations had the strategic consequences on the country's demography and political destiny. Studies in the field of political history on the basis of archaeological and written sources reveal the historic background of Armenia's economic life in ancient and medieval times.