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US-Brunei cooperation in the 2000s: an analysis

La cooperación entre Estados Unidos y Brunei en la década de 2000: un análisis

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Abstract

The article analyzes the main aspects of relations between the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, which is located in Southeast Asia, and the United States. The relevance of the study is related to the strengthening of diplomatic ties between different states and the need for a comprehensive analysis of their various aspects. The reason for the study was to explore a relatively new area of diplomatic relations between the United States and Brunei. The scientific value and novelty lie in the complex analysis of relations between the mentioned states during the given historical period. General scientific methods of research were used, and due to the fact that the studied issue is at the junction of several sciences, methods of historical, political science and the study of diplomatic relations were used. The study found that the diplomatic relations of the United States and Brunei are influenced by the geopolitical competition between the United States and China in Southeast Asia, revealing Washington's desire to subordinate the countries of the region to its influence and establish hegemony in opposition to China. For this purpose, the US is trying to find geopolitical allies among the countries of the region, with Brunei being one of them.

Keywords: Southeast Asia, International Relations, Diplomacy, Sultanate, Geopolitics.

Introduction


Consideration of the relationship between the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam and the USA is caused by the fact that historically the policy and diplomacy of the USA in Southeast Asia was determined by the geopolitical interests of

Resumen

El artículo analiza los principales aspectos de las relaciones entre el Sultanato de Brunei Darussalam, ubicado en el sudeste asiático, y Estados Unidos. La relevancia del estudio está relacionada con el fortalecimiento de las relaciones diplomáticas entre diferentes Estados y la necesidad de un análisis integral de sus varios aspectos. El motivo del estudio. Era explorar un área relativamente nueva de relaciones diplomáticas entre Estados Unidos y Brunei. Valor científico y novedad. residir en análisis complejo de las relaciones entre los Estados mencionados durante el período histórico en cuestión. Se utilizaron métodos de investigación científica general y, debido a al hecho de que el problema estudiado se encuentra en el unión de varios Se utilizaron ciencias, métodos de la ciencia histórica, la ciencia política y el estudio de las relaciones diplomáticas. El estudio concluyó que las relaciones diplomáticas de Estados Unidos y Brunei están influenciados por la competencia geopolítica entre Estados Unidos y China en el Sudeste Asiático, lo que revela el deseo de Washington de subordinar a los países de la región a sus influir y establecer uno hegemonía frente a China. Con este fin, Estados Unidos está tratando de encontrar aliados geopolíticos entre los países de la región, siendo Brunei uno de ellos.

Palabras clave: Sudeste Asiático, Relaciones Internacional, Diplomacia, Sultanato, Geopolítica.

Washington in this region first, attention was paid to supporting free transport routes across the South China Sea, which gave access to the markets of the region. Secondly, the USA made every effort to contain the spread of communist

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ideas in the region, which were ideological opponents of America's political system. To this end, in the second half of the twentieth century. The United States actively intervened in the politico-military conflicts that erupted in the region. Washington supported France in the Indochina War and was directly involved in the Vietnam Campaign. In the twenty-first century. The USA has declared Southeast Asia as one of the fronts in the fight against terrorism. During this historical period, there has been an increase in tensions with China, which claims regional and, along with Russia, global leadership (Parameswaran, 2019a; Parameswaran, 2019b; Parameswaran, 2018). Brunei is among the states that are the backbone of the USA in the region. This study aims to analyze and systematize the major aspects of the relationship between the USA and the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam at the beginning of the 21st century (Omar, 2018). As for the study of the problem, it is reasonable to divide the works devoted to this problem into three main groups: works of Ukrainian researchers (Ukrainian-language segment of historiography); works of Russian scientists (Russian-language segment of historiography); studies of American, European and Asian scientists (English-language segment of historiography).

In the forthcoming sections of this article, we delve into a comprehensive exploration of the diplomatic relations between the United States and Brunei Darussalam. The second section, "Theoretical Framework and Literature Review," critically analyzes existing literature on this subject. Despite the absence of specific scientific works addressing this relationship, we draw insights from broader studies, especially those by Ukrainian and Asian scholars. Noteworthy contributors include Sofilkanych (2022), Omar (2020), Gorodnia (2018), Pidbereznykh (2018), King & Druce (2022), and Nguyen (2016), offering diverse perspectives on the historical, economic, and political dimensions of the region and the specific case of Brunei. This section lays the foundation for understanding the context in which the U.S.-Brunei relationship evolves.

The subsequent section, "Research Design and Methods," unveils the methodology applied in this study. Here, we present hypotheses exploring the nature of U.S. involvement in international relations, emphasizing geopolitical interests, attempts at regional hegemony, and strategies for cooperation with Brunei. The research employs a range of general scientific methods, including deduction, induction, analysis, synthesis, modeling, and formalization.

By integrating historical and political science approaches, we adopt a systematic, ideological pluralism, and dialectical understanding of the historical process. This methodological fusion allows us to assess international relations' nuances, emphasizing the importance of observation, participant observation, content analysis, and event analysis. The study also draws from jurisprudential methods, such as the analysis of theoretical and normative-legal sources, comparison, generalization, and modeling, to unravel the intricacies of diplomatic relations between Brunei and the United States. These methodological choices, rooted in a multidisciplinary approach, enable us to provide a nuanced and comprehensive analysis of the diplomatic interactions at different levels between these two nations.

Theoretical framework and literature review

It should be noted that no scientific works, which would reveal any aspect of this topic during this study, were found. Therefore, there were used the works, which dealt with this issue only in general and indirectly (Sofilkanych, 2022; Omar, 2020). Among Ukrainian scientists, made a significant scientific contribution to the study of this issue (Gorodnia, 2018; Pidbereznykh, 2018). Her articles are devoted to an in-depth analysis of USA policy strategy in the region, respectively, the place of their relations with Brunei.

The issue was analyzed in the context of the overall US policy towards Southeast Asia. The peculiarities, the purpose of the policy and its transformation under different administrations and changing paradigms of geopolitical realities were disclosed. Thus, the relationship with Brunei was an integral part of the regional relations analyzed in this study. Various aspects of the historical, economic, and political development of the region have attracted attention (Pidbereznykh, 2018). At the same time, no separate works devoted to the relationship between the United States of America and Brunei Darussalam were written by Ukrainian researchers. They have analyzed in detail and revealed some aspects of the history and socio-political processes in Brunei, which determined the basis of US policy in the region. At the same time, the issue of diplomatic relations between the United States and Brunei Darussalam was not a sphere of their professional interests. Therefore, they touched on this issue only indirectly, mentioning it only briefly in their research. Therefore, there are no comprehensive studies devoted to the diplomatic relations between Brunei and the United States in this

historical period in Russia either. Representatives of the third segment are studies by Asian scholars (King & Druce, 2022; Omar, 2018). Graham (2015) highlighted the historiographical controversy over important events, personalities, and developments in Brunei. Hang Nguyen explored the Obama administration's renewed engagement with Southeast Asia and revealed the reasons for the United States' desire to expand its presence in Southeast Asia after a period of relative calm and indifference (Nguyen, 2016). American scholar of international relations in Southeast Asia Weatherbee (2008) has analyzed the efforts of Southeast Asian states to collectively adapt in the process of building an ASEAN community to the challenges of traditional internal regional security issues. ASEAN is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which was formed on August 8, 1967 in Bangkok, while the finalization did not occur until 1976 on the island of Bali. The ASEAN member states acted with common sense pragmatism, seeking to partially isolate the region from external influence (from the point of view of the neoliberal economic approach such regionalism is considered "discriminatory"). The writings of Omar (2020) are also of particular interest in this study (Mohidin, 2014; Darussalam, 2016; Putra, 2021). The sources of the study were statements and directives from U.S. and Brunei leaders, presidential speeches, articles in periodicals, and materials from government websites.

Research design and methods

Hypotheses

During the study a number of hypotheses were put forward, the first of which is that the U.S., building international relations, primarily guided by the protection of its own geopolitical interests, so building mutually beneficial relations with other states is the exception rather than the rule.

The hypotheses were formulated based on a careful consideration of the study's objectives and research questions. For instance, the first hypothesis posits that U.S. international relations are primarily guided by geopolitical interests, with the exception of mutually beneficial relations when aligned with the partner state's political and economic course.

Data Analysis

The data underwent a comprehensive analysis using a variety of techniques, including content analysis, event analysis, and comparative

analysis. This methodological approach facilitated a nuanced exploration of the data, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative dimensions, contributing to the robustness of the study's findings.

The study is anchored in the principle of historicism, emphasizing a systematic approach, ideological pluralism, and a dialectical understanding of historical processes. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the study, methods from history and political science were employed, complemented by approaches specific to international relations.

Observational methods, including instrumental observation with technical means and participant observation, were incorporated, drawing on insights from diplomatic and political experiences. The study incorporates content analysis and event analysis, aligning with the methodologies used by notable researchers such as E. Azar in the analysis of international conflicts. Methodological approaches from social and humanitarian sciences have been adopted, considering the study's legal context. The focus on jurisprudential methods, including the analysis of theoretical and normative-legal sources, comparison, generalization, analysis of documents, and modeling, provides a robust framework for investigating diplomatic contacts between Brunei and the United States at various levels.

Mutually beneficial relations are possible only if the partner state supports the political and economic course of the states. The next hypothesis is to consider U.S. attempts to establish its geopolitical hegemony in the region by narrowing or not allowing geopolitical competitors into the region as much as possible. Hypothesis four states that the main method of establishing dominance in the region is to support governments loyal to the U.S. and eliminate those who oppose Washington's hegemony in the region by various methods. The fifth hypothesis is that the US seeks to establish mutually beneficial cooperation with Brunei, without preventing geopolitical rivals from establishing contacts and connections in the region. The sixth hypothesis indicates that the U.S. is increasingly active in the struggle for raw materials and markets.

In the process of the implementation of this scientific study primarily used general scientific methods: deduction, induction, analysis, synthesis, modeling, formalization. The article was based on the principle of historicism, which

is one of the basic principles of the study of history (Shakun, 2022; Maraieva, 2022). The basic methods of historical study were the following: systematic approach, ideological pluralism, dialectical understanding of the historical process, as well as the problem-chronological method. Due to the fact that the investigated problematics is at the junction of history and political science the basic methods of study were used, which are most often used in this science. In addition, methods that help to consider and assess the features of international relations were applied. This is due to the fact that political processes taking place at the global and regional level have a certain specificity and differ from the socio-political relations, which are limited to the framework of individual states. In this case, the method of observation plays a great role. The researcher first observes a process and the tendency of its development and only then makes an assessment. Specialists are increasingly resorting to instrumental observation, which is carried out with the help of technical means, and this method of observation has also found its application in this study. An interesting method of analyzing international relations is participant observation, i.e., observation by direct participants in events. More fundamental and informative analytical studies are those that are made on the basis of one's own diplomatic and political experience (Shakun, 2022). To this end, the study of memoirs of various political figures is carried out. Also, the method of content analysis and event analysis was applied, which consists in tracing the dynamics of events in the international arena to determine the main trends in the political situation in individual countries, regions and the world as a whole. American researcher E. Azar applied event analysis, when studying the trend of international conflicts. In the middle of the XX century, the adherents of the modernist direction in the study of international relations began to widely apply methodological approaches borrowed from other social and humanitarian sciences. Because this study is performed in a legal context, the main attention was paid to the methods of research that are used in jurisprudence. Among them the analysis of theoretical and normative-legal sources; comparison; generalization; analysis of documents; modeling. We should also note that cooperation between the countries is based on diplomatic contacts. Between Brunei and the United States, they took place at different levels. This study examines contacts at the highest level (visits and meetings between heads of state); at the level of heads of foreign ministries and other

government agencies; assesses visits of lower-level government officials.

Results

Before analyzing the relations between Brunei and the United States, it is necessary to emphasize that international relations between civilized countries are based on the principles of international law, a special legal system that regulates international relations through various legal norms. The peculiarity of international law is the possibility to apply coercive measures to enforce the legal norms on the basis of the existing norms and within the framework of relevant international treaties. Norms of international law are usually divided into imperative and dispositive. A peremptory norm of international law is a norm accepted and recognized by the international community, from which no deviation is permitted. Imperative norms, for example, are the principles of international law. Dispositive norms are rules of conduct from which States may derogate by mutual agreement, if the derogation does not harm the rights and legitimate interests of other States. Dispositive norm implies the right of subjects to regulate their relations otherwise than provided by the general norm. International law, in turn, influences national laws, and this influence is constantly increasing, for example, ensuring fundamental human rights. The rules of international law guide Brunei Darussalam, a Southeast Asian state on the northwestern island of Kalimantan, in its foreign policy. Notably, the island is divided between Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia, while Brunei itself is divided into two parts by the territory of Malaysia. The word "Darussalam" means the abode of peace, the polity of the sultanate. Relations between the United States and Brunei date back to the mid-XIX century, specifically from April 6, 1845, when the American warship USS Constitution dropped anchor in Brunei Bay. The historic visit contributed to the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Commerce and Navigation, which has been in force since 1850. For 96 years (1888-1984) Brunei was under the protectorate of Great Britain, a U.S. ally in two world wars. On the day of the Sultanate's declaration of independence (January 1, 1984), the United States opened an embassy in the center of Brunei's capital, Bandar-Seri Begawan. On March 10, 1984, the Brunei Embassy was opened in the District of Columbia and diplomatic relations were established between the two states through an exchange of the appropriate notes. It is this historic moment that is considered the beginning of official bilateral relations between the countries.

Therefore, it should be noted that by the beginning of the 2000s, diplomatic relations had been less than 20 years old and were in their infancy. This is evidenced by the fact that on November 15-16, 2000, President B. Clinton of the United States visited Brunei's capital with his first presidential visit and participated in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which unlike ASEAN has more member countries, including Canada and the US (Weatherbee, 2008, pp. 64-65; Pidbereznykh, 2018, p. 198) that are not South-East Asian countries. It is believed that APEC and ASEAN, which is formed on the basis of civilization, are directly opposite international associations. Some researchers point out that one of the objectives of APEC is to unify the region by Western standards and turn it into a single market of goods and services in the interests of the United States, while the goal of ASEAN is to preserve national and regional identity and economic independence. At the same time, it should be emphasized that both organizations are focused on cooperation with the United States and Washington plays an active role in their activities. July 30-01, 2002, Bandar Seri Begawan hosted the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), which was attended by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. The first official visit of the Sultan of Brunei and the King of Malaysia to the United States took place in 2002. The delegation was received by President Bush in Washington. This visit was a milestone in the development of bilateral relations and focused primarily on trade and economic aspects and the United States committed to promoting trade and investment in ASEAN countries, including Brunei (Gorodnia, 2018, p. 109). In 2002, former Secretary of State Colin Powell made an official visit to the Sultanate to attend a meeting with ASEAN members at the RFA. Somewhat later, there is a strengthening of military cooperation, which was marked by a visit in 2008. Sultan to the U.S. Pacific Fleet base located in Hawaii. They were accompanied by Ambassador William Todd. It is known that during this period, Brunei sent cadets to U.S. military academies, cooperated in maritime security and coordination of humanitarian aid and disaster relief. Meanwhile, military cooperation between the US and Brunei dates back to November 29, 1994, when a Memorandum of Understanding on Military and Defense Cooperation was signed. The countries began a dialogue with the formation of joint training programs, and then other forms of military cooperation began to develop. The Sultanate allowed U.S. naval forces to enter its docks for repairs and the transit of military aircraft. Also, Brunei's armed forces often

participate in joint military exercises with the U.S. military (Gorodnia, 2014, p. 101). In July 2011, Brunei's energy minister and minister of foreign affairs and trade visited the United States to expand energy cooperation between the two countries, where officials met with a number of U.S. companies representing the oil and gas sector. On September 20 of the same year, Minister Jok Seng and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell had their first dialogue. In the field of bilateral economic relations, American firms worked in the energy sector, in financial services and consulting for government projects, and American franchises and brands were gradually opened in Brunei. This further strengthened the bilateral relationship and marked a new milestone in the strategic partnership between the two countries. A wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues of common interest were addressed. They included security, combating terrorism, economic development, particularly the strengthening of commercial and investment ties and the possibility of coordinating development projects within the framework of the multilateral initiative to protect the wildlife "The Heart of Borneo". Progress in defense cooperation was also noted. In 2011, the United States participated in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the BRIDEX international defense exhibition. At the same time, the next visit of the Brunei delegation headed by the Sultan to the United States took place only on March 12, 2013, actually 11 years after the first visit. (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 2011). This interruption can be viewed both negatively and positively: if viewed from a negative perspective, one can assume that the U.S. is not strongly interested in contacts with Brunei. On the positive side, Brunei is a country with a small territory and therefore probably not of primary interest. However, Brunei occupies an important economic and strategic location on the coast, at the crossroads of trade routes. At the same time, there are intensive diplomatic contacts at a lower level. Therefore, a separate assessment should be made of the circumstances that led to the long interruption of interstate visits at the highest level. One can assume that the U.S. high-level visit was possible because Brunei presided over ASEAN in 2013 (Pidbereznykh, 2018). Overall, this year can be characterized by an intense increase in diplomatic activity. Secretary of State John Kerry visited the country for several ministerial and leadership meetings. At the meeting with President Obama B., mutual interest in deepening bilateral cooperation, which has spanned more than 160 years but has only

received its most vigorous development in recent decades, was reaffirmed. Particular emphasis was placed on the development of mutually beneficial projects. At the same time, Obama praised His Majesty's leadership on maritime issues in the APEC and the promotion of English language learning among young people, which helped expand trade and strengthen ties between the United States and the region (de Vienne & Jammes, 2020). At the same time, this fact may indicate the desire of the United States, through the exposure of the general population to the English language, to enhance the Westernization process in Brunei and the spread of Western values that are not typical of the traditional culture of the country. On the one hand, as noted above, it can strengthen trade relations, and on the other hand, it can strengthen the processes of globalization, which can destroy the identity of the country and its traditional values. Therefore, the U.S. position can be assessed as a desire to spread its cultural influence, unifying it throughout the world under its standards, establishing its hegemony and standards of living for all mankind. Slightly deviating from the topic, let us note that one of the reasons of confrontation between the US and Russia and China, may be the desire of Washington to establish a unipolar, Westernized in all spheres of human life, world. It is noteworthy that the issue of expanding the scope of the English language in the region has been discussed before, during Clinton's visit to Brunei in September 2012. Even a special project was developed to strengthen the role of this language in the region. It should be noted that similar trends of spreading the influence of Western values are also typical for Ukraine and may pose a threat to the cultural identity of the country and the development of the Ukrainian language. It is stated that the main purpose of the visit is to promote cooperation between the United States and ASEAN (Pidbereznykh, 2018, p. 199). One of the nuances of the U.S.-Brunei relationships has been the difficult diplomatic situation emerging in the region due to the growing confrontation between global geopolitical players: the United States and China. Increasing tensions between these countries are occurring in all spheres of activity. Researchers believe that China is expanding into the region, using a variety of means, from outright pressure to "soft power," which serves to attract more and more states in the region to its side. Therefore, the relationship between the U.S. and Brunei, which Washington seeks to subordinate to its influence, should be viewed in the context of geopolitical competition and struggle for spheres of influence between the U.S. and China in the region. As a result, Brunei,

small in area but wealthy and economically influential, is of great interest to both the U.S. and China. Therefore, the state is forced to maneuver on the diplomatic front, ensuring the protection of its national interests: on the one hand, it appeals to the United States for support, and on the other hand, it tries to establish close economic relations with China. It should be noted that economic cooperation and participation in APEC and ASEAN are now in the foreground. Brunei saw APEC as a community of open and interconnected economies, as a means of strengthening the ability to grow globally, in strengthening markets, developing human resources and promoting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises to support the economy. The movement toward global integration was seen as an opportunity to improve the standard of living and social well-being of the population. An ambitious Agenda for Economic Modernization was introduced to help the economy leverage advances in information technology to increase productivity and stimulate growth and expansion of services, strengthen markets, e-commerce, infrastructure, knowledge and skills development, affordable and more efficient access to communications and the Internet. Brunei also supported APEC programs to improve the quality of teachers and build sound education management through a collaborative educational process in the region. New information and communication technologies enabled the development of networks to extend health services to a wider population, and to address major health issues. Therefore, Brunei, under the diplomatic influence of the U.S., deliberately became involved in the processes of globalization.

Discussion

The question of how mutually beneficial the U.S.-Brunei relationships is remains debatable. Researchers believe that the purpose of U.S. bilateral cooperation with other countries is to protect and promote national interests, which are to support sovereignty and territorial integrity preserve political, cultural and religious identity; promote regional and global peace, security, prosperity, stability, welfare, economic and social well-being of citizens (Gorodnia, 2011). At the same time the tendencies of the USA directed to unification, globalization, and establishment of a new world order, which is in line with neoliberal values and does not provide for regional and cultural pluralism, are noted (Mahtani, 2019). This conclusion can be drawn in view of the fact that the U.S. is making every effort to promote the English language,

American culture and values as the standard of democracy and freedom. This process of globalization provides the erasure of national and regional differences in the modern world and the establishment of a single standard (Maraieva, 2022). It is noted that globalization has become so total that it is accepted as an objective reality and one of the natural stages of human development by an increasing number of politicians, researchers. There are several varieties of globalization and one of them is the American model of globalization, which was developed in the United States. At the same time in the U.S. there is a reverse process of active influence of Chinese and Asian culture in general. Therefore, this process is far from ambiguous and multidimensional. Therefore, we should express some disagreement with the opinion of researchers who believe that the U.S. seeks to maintain the cultural diversity of the modern world and express disagreement with the view that there is only the American scenario of globalization (U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, 2019). Therefore, it should be noted that the historical process is largely due to the geopolitical competition between the superpowers and the desire to maximize its sphere of geopolitical influence, including the maximum number of states that do not belong to the category of superpowers.

Specific Mechanisms of Cooperation between the United States and Brunei

The economic ties between the United States and Brunei are underscored by robust trade agreements, strategic investment partnerships, and joint ventures. Trade between the two nations has flourished, with mutual benefits evident in the exchange of goods and services. Investment partnerships have paved the way for shared economic interests, fostering growth and development in both countries. These collaborations contribute significantly to job creation, technology transfer, and the overall economic well-being of the nations involved.

In the realm of security and defense, the U.S. and Brunei engage in joint efforts aimed at ensuring regional and global stability. Military alliances, intelligence sharing, and counterterrorism initiatives are central to their collaborative approach. Notable security agreements and joint military exercises serve as tangible evidence of the depth of cooperation, demonstrating a commitment to shared security goals and the protection of both nations' interests.

Cultural and educational exchanges form a vital component of U.S.-Brunei relations. Various programs promote cultural understanding, facilitate language exchange initiatives, and establish educational partnerships. These exchanges play a crucial role in fostering mutual understanding between the people of the United States and Brunei, contributing to the development of enduring people-to-people connections that transcend geographical boundaries.

Implications of U.S.-Brunei Cooperation

The economic implications of U.S.-Brunei cooperation are profound, influencing the growth of industries, employment rates, and overall economic stability in both countries. Collaborative efforts have spurred innovation, technological advancements, and increased market access, leading to enhanced economic prosperity. However, challenges may arise, and it is crucial to address potential areas requiring further attention to sustain and maximize economic benefits.

The partnership between the U.S. and Brunei carries significant political implications, impacting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both nations. An evaluation of this cooperation within the broader geopolitical landscape reveals how it aligns with each country's strategic interests. This alignment is critical in navigating complex international relations and fostering diplomatic ties that strengthen the geopolitical position of both parties.

Exploring the cultural implications of U.S.-Brunei cooperation unveils the influence of American values and cultural exchange on Bruneian society. The dynamics of globalization come into play, impacting cultural diversity. While cultural exchanges enrich societies, challenges may arise from the potential homogenization of cultures. A nuanced assessment is essential to understand and address the implications for both nations.

U.S.-Brunei cooperation plays a role in the larger geopolitical context, particularly within the competition between global superpowers. Both countries navigate this landscape, seeking to maximize their geopolitical influence. Understanding the impact of this cooperation on their respective spheres of influence is crucial in comprehending the geopolitical dynamics in the region and beyond.

Acknowledging varying perspectives on U.S. globalization, it is essential to consider arguments both for and against the idea that the U.S. seeks to maintain cultural diversity. A nuanced perspective is crucial in understanding the influence of American and other cultural forces in the global arena. This reconciliation of views provides a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of U.S. globalization and its implications for cultural diversity worldwide.

Conclusion

To sum up, during the study period, the United States and Brunei have cooperated closely in many areas, most notably joint integration alliances, defense programs, trade and economic activities, and humanitarian missions. It is necessary to state that diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam and the United States have deep historical roots and during the period under study were conducted at a high level of intensity. At the same time, it should be noted that the highest level of the Brunei Darussalam delegation visited the United States only twice. At the same time, there is an active level of cooperation between the U.S. and Brunei at the diplomatic level, with regular meetings of heads of foreign ministries and other government officials of the highest rank. Cooperation between the states in the first two decades of the XXI century has been multidirectional. The role of English as a factor in spreading U.S. influence is emphasized. Let us note that other countries resort to similar tactics, which by introducing the language of their country spread its influence in many aspects and first seek to introduce their culture. Therefore, language in our time has become one of the tools to spread the geopolitical influence of a particular state. As for the objectives of the study, the different aspects of cooperation between the United States and Brunei during this historical period were systematized, and the priority areas of cooperation were analyzed, and it was found that the economy, defense, the fight against terrorism and the cultural field in which the United States encourages the strengthening of the role of English in Brunei. The main vectors of cooperation, which are due to global and regional geopolitical competition and the desire of the U.S. to acquire an ally in the region, were revealed. Diplomatic contacts at various levels have been covered in detail and the scope and main priorities of cooperation have been established. The geopolitical component was analyzed separately, and some predictions were given for the US-Brunei relationship. As for the

hypotheses of the study, the hypothesis that in building international relations, the U.S. primarily seeks to protect its interests, in principle, this is natural for any state and is especially characteristic of those countries that are superpowers, was largely confirmed. Therefore, mutually beneficial relations are the exception rather than the rule and are only possible when the partner state supports the political and economic course of the states. It is also quite natural that the United States is trying to establish a geopolitical hegemony in the region under study by narrowing, or complete displacement of geopolitical competitors. The main method of U.S. domination is to support loyal governments, and if they do not support the U.S. policy, attempts are made to change the regime in one way or another. Now there is a struggle between Washington and its competitors for raw materials and markets. As for cooperation with Brunei, it is more likely to be mutually beneficial, since the government supports the political and economic course of the United States.

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