***Made by Belous Iuliia,***

***HSE University***

**Factors of centrifugal tendencies in the EU Member States (case of Spain)[[1]](#footnote-1)**

***(Рус. пер.: Факторы центробежных тенденций в государствах-членах ЕС (на примере Испании))***

The factors that influence the dynamics of centrifugal political tendencies in the EU Member States (such as Spain the UK), has received a great deal of attention. The authors identify a number of factors that play a role in many conflicts center ‒ regions in the European Union, such as, for example, ethnic, linguistic, religious and/or cultural differences, play a role as much as historical memories, such as past independence. These are indirect effects that require careful study to identify causal effects because there can be many reasons for the ebb and flow of such moods.

The Spanish “case” is not the only one on the political landscape of the European Union: the problem of relations between the center and regions is relevant for almost all European countries. Just to recall the case of Great Britain, in which the dynamics of the conflict "center-regions" play a special role in the development of the state. The peculiarity of Spain in this case is that it is a state of Western Europe that carried out a democratic transition after the dictatorship of Franco in a peaceful way in a relatively short period of time (Prokhorenko, 2014).

Authors claim that the existing territorial model of the "state of autonomies" was laid down in the Constitution of Spain in 1978, and the socio-economic discrepancies in the development of regions, namely, the gap between the “developed periphery” and developing regions (Aláez Corral, Bastida Freijedo, 2019). There are many factors to consider when studying centrifugal trends. These factors can be mutually influencing or multiple-conjunctural. At the same time, these explanatory variables can be competing, but can equally influence the dynamics of centrifugal trends in Spain. Therefore, it is necessary to study carefully the factors of centrifugal tendencies and how they affect each other.

In this article, we define the notion of centrifugal tendencies as a course of development that leads to a gradual depletion of the powers of the political centre in the interests of regional politicians, but does not allow their recognition as actors separate from the state (López-Basaguren, San-Epifanio, 2019, p. 212).

The aim of the study is to identify the factors contributing to centrifugal trends in Spain. The research methodology includes referring to the results of a series of interviews conducted with Spanish and European academics in their field.

The author of the study concluded that after the beginning of the democratic transition in 1975, several factors can be identified that made possible the development of a pronounced regionalism in the Iberian Peninsula. On the one hand, it is a historical factor, which is the manifestation of centrifugal sentiments in some regions, such as Galicia, the Basque Country, Catalonia and, to less extent, Andalusia. After the end of the era of Franco's dictatorship, these sentiments became even stronger. A key example is the activities of the terrorist group ETA in the Basque Country, which arose as a movement against the Franco regime, but also as an armed movement for independence.

On the other hand, the economic factor and the argument in favor of the distribution of fiscal competencies are strong. Indeed, many of these regions have also historically secured institutional privileges. The most obvious case can be the "fueros" of the Basque Country, which secured the privileges of this region over others, including Catalonia, which would also be willing to receive these privileges.

**References**

1. Aláez Corral, B., Bastida Freijedo, F. (2019) ‘Constitutionalizing Secession in Order to Harmonize Constitutionality and Democ- racy in Territorial Decentralized States Like Spain’ in: López-Basaguren, A., Es- cajedo San-Epifanio, L. (ed.) Claims for Secession and Federalism. A Comparative Study with a Special Focus on Spain. Switzerland: Springer, pp. 265‒287.
2. López-Basaguren, A., Escajedo San-Epifanio, L. (2019) Claims for Secession and Federal- ism. A Comparative Study with a Special Focus on Spain. Switzerland: Springer.
3. Prohorenko, I. L. (2014) ‘Subnational Elites as Subjects of Trans- formation of Public Space of the Euro- pean Union’ [‘Subnacional'nye jelity kak subekty transformacii politicheskogo prostranstva Evropejskogo sojuza’], Politicheskaja nauka, 2, pр. 108‒126. (In Russ.).

1. Acknowledgments: The reported study was funded by RFBR, project number No 20-314-90001, «The Impact of the EU Regional Policy on Centrifugal Tendencies in the Political System of Spain» [↑](#footnote-ref-1)