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**THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCIES OF THE REGIONAL CONFLICTS
(ON THE EXAMPLE OF SYRIA)**

**ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ ПОСЛЕДСТВИЯ РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫХ
КОНФЛИКТОВ (НА ПРИМЕРЕ СИРИИ)**

Regional armed conflict (regional war) is a limited conflict resulting from the unresolved regional differences. It occurs within the region's borders, but its political and economic consequences can affect far beyond these borders.

In the article we will consider the essence of a military conflict, its characteristics and consequences. On the example of the Syrian conflict we will analyze the impact of the armed conflict on the economy of the countries involved.

The countries not belonging to the region can also take part in the conflict (providing the military equipment, advisers or volunteers). In the period since 1945 to 1988 there were 170 major regional conflicts, while over the preceding almost six decades (1898–1945) there were 116 wars and conflicts, what is by one third less. All major powers have been involved in the regional conflicts in one form or another; in almost 100 regional conflicts they directly participated in hostilities. The international trade of arms has a conflict-provocative nature, and the main supplier in this field are the United States and Russia.

A regional conflict has many characteristics which can be political or military and political, controlled or uncontrolled, internal or with external intervention; the external forces acting both positively and negatively; dividing the internal forces into moderates and radicals, the dynamics of changes in their influence; the ratio of the armed forces, the potential for mobilization, the possibility of military support (supply of weapons); features of national psychology (resilience, sacrifice, level of organization).

The settlement of regional conflicts involves the development of various political models and forms of settlement. These models include: a cease-fire in an interstate war via negotiations and reaching agreement by means of the mediation functions of the UN Secretary-General and with the diplomacy of three involved countries. Today, regional conflict participants can be divided into three main groups.

The first group includes the most powerful states: Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel.

The second group comprises not so active, but nonetheless influential participants in regional relations - Egypt, Jordan, Qatar.

The third group includes Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya.

Let's consider a regional conflict on the example of Syria.

The conflict in Syria began in 2011. It originated as an internal opposition of the disaffected part of society and the power of President Bashar al-Assad. Gradually, Islamist radicals, the Kurds and other countries, including Turkey, Russia, the USA, Iran and numerous Arab states joined the civil war.

Leaving aside the political and military components of this conflict, I would like to touch on the economic factors of turning Syria in the eyes of the West and the Saudis from a promising partner and one of the most respected countries of the Arab League into a "regime of bloody tyranny". Indeed, even in the conditions of the global financial crisis, the economic situation in Syria remained steady.

So, as of the end of 2010, the main national macroeconomic indicators were not bad if compared with average indicators. According to the World Bank estimates, the growth of the Syrian economy in 2010 was 4.5%, the country's gold and foreign exchange reserves amounted to 17.7 billion dollars. With a slight negative balance of foreign trade, exports amounted to 11.9 billion dollars, imports – 13.9 billion. According to official data, the inflation rate at the end of 2010 did not exceed 3% (for comparison: at the same time, inflation in the United States 1.5%, in Russia – 8.8%, in Armenia – 8%).

The Syrian government managed to keep a deficit-free state budget. According to official data of the United Nations, as a result of the war in Syria the economy was damaged by \$ 200 billion, more than 80% of the population were in poverty, life expectancy was reduced by 20 years. The unemployment rate exceeded 55%. The population of Syria decreased by 15% from 21 million people in 2010 to 18 million people at the end of 2014. Also, damage was made to education. Half of all children in Syria lost their schools and the opportunity to continue their education.

All these numbers give us the evidence that the regional conflict had a great negative impact on the Syrian economy. On January 29-30, 2018, the Syrian National Dialogue Congress was held in Sochi, the main outcome of which was the laying of the foundations of a constitutional commission to start work under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva.