

«THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL»: POSSIBLE IMPACT OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES ON US-RUSSIA RELATIONS.

N.A. Semenyuk

Bachelor of the 3rd year, Department of Information Technologies and Systems

T.A. Berkovich

Senior Lecturer, Department of Cross-cultural Communication and Translation

*Vladivostok State University of Economics and Service
Russia. Vladivostok*

The problem of relationship with the USA is highly relevant in modern Russia. It is no secret that both countries are struggling to maintain a meaningful dialogue. The following disagreements about these issues contribute to the problem: Ukraine crisis and war in Syria. Currently presidential elections are going on in the United States. The article analyses views of presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on Russia and its role at the international arena.

Key words: *relationship with USA, Ukraine crisis and war in Syria, presidential elections, Russia and its role at the international arena.*

The drastic alteration of current relations between the United States and Russian Federation has become inevitable. Several disagreements in the political sphere have laid a solid foundation for the following: the Crisis in the Ukraine, the way Russia tries to handle the problem of ISIS in the Middle East. All of these tensions raise a question: what the future holds for the relations between the two countries.

In order to better understand the possible impact of presidential elections in the United States, we are going to examine the attitude of two leading candidates, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, to Russia and its policy at the international arena.

Hillary Clinton is a representative of Democrats and unlike many of her colleagues in politics, Clinton has refused to be dogmatic, choosing instead to achieve results through pragmatism and compromise, which makes her an effective leader. First rose to elective office in 2001 and stepped down from an elected position in 2009, Clinton has served as an elected official for a total of 8 years. She has a lot of experience and knows how the Office works from the inside.

Clinton's opponent is Donald Trump. The Republican nominee, who has no experience in running the Office, is considered to be one of the leaders according to preliminary election results. Donald Trump finances his election campaign with his own funds. He attracted the attention of media and public in a very short period of time. What makes him so popular?

The first thing to be mentioned is that he strayed far from the traditional ways of professional politicians. More specifically, he does not seek sponsorship or any of that, speaks the common language with core constituency rather than political jargon, and is not afraid to openly criticize his opponents. Moreover, the discussion of potentially dangerous political topics is no challenge to him – he used to say what he thinks. One of the great examples of his political views is his position on the problems of racial and sexual minorities and women.

As for Clinton, her stance on US-Russian relationship is very clear. The foreign policy conducted by president Putin is a major threat to world stability according to Clinton. That fact severely hinders Clinton's own policy. So what contributed to the creation of such a negative perspective?

Firstly, Russian involvement in Syria and what Clinton wants to do about it:

1. establish a no-fly zone over the country;
2. create humanitarian corridors to get aid to civilians;
3. support the opposition.

According to Clinton, she has no plans on increasing American military presence in the region that is why Russian involvement in Syria "equals violation of international law".

Secondly, it is important to mention Clinton's tough stand against Russian cooperation on nuclear weapons. Cooperation in the field of nuclear weapons reduction can be used to build stronger and more productive relations with Russia.

Therefore, as long as Russia sticks to its current political course Clinton will never fully embrace Russia as an equal power and will seek to keep Kremlin's ambitions in check during her time in the Oval Office.

Trump's policy is as follows:

1. diplomacy and respect is crucial to the US relationship with Russia;
2. "Putin has no respect for America; I will get along with him";
3. support NATO, but it is not US against Russia.