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DANILO KRYLOV. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AS A TOOL OF NATIONAL MODERNIZATION AND FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGY (2023–2025)

Keywords: United Arab Emirates; UAE; digital transformation; digital sovereignty; smart state; financial technology; technological diplomacy; artificial intelligence; international alliances; global competition; international relations.

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Abstract. The article examines the digital transformation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) between 2023 and 2025 as a systemic vector of national modernization and foreign policy. It analyzes the institutional architecture of the digital state, including the development of the smart-state infrastructure, fintech, transport and environmental digitalization, and the UAE's participation in global technological alliances. Special emphasis is given to digital sovereignty and multivector diplomacy in the context of global technological fragmentation. The study argues that the UAE has positioned itself as a neutral platform ("digital bridge") between competing technological blocs, with digitalization evolving from a functional tool into a project of strategic development.

In modern international relations, digital technologies are becoming one of the key factors in the formation of state power, especially for small and medium-sized powers tending to compensate for limited military and demographic resources through innovative approaches. Digitalization has a transformative impact on state institutions, public practices and foreign policy subjectivity, becoming an important object of analysis within the framework of the concept of "smart power," digital sovereignty and global technological competition.

Using the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as an example, digital transformation appears as a strategic component of a national modernization project. Since the beginning of the 2010s the country has been implementing large-scale initiatives in the field of electronic control, artificial intelligence (AI) and big data processing. The policy documents – UAE Vision 2021, UAE Centennial 2071 and National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031 – consolidate digitalization not only as a tool to increase administrative efficiency, but also as a means to increase global competitiveness and strengthen the country's geo-economic weight.

The digital paradigm in the UAE is based on close synergy between government agencies and the private sector, which