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Notes

1. This refers to the Second Lebanon-Israel War, between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, which ended with the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

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TAISIYA USTINOVA. QATAR AND JAPAN: PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION

Keywords: Japan; Qatar; politics; economics; culture; interstate relations; energy cooperation; crisis diplomacy.

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Abstract. The article examines the current state of relations between Qatar and Japan. It chronicles the development of bilateral relations from 1972 to the present. Special attention is given to energy cooperation and Japan's policy as a peacemaker in the Middle East. The paper also indicates that there is a growing interest in Japanese culture and traditions in Qatar.

In March 1945, the League of Arab States was established. The founders of the League were: Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, North Yemen and Saudi Arabia. After the creation of the League, interest in the countries of the Middle East region increased on the part of all states, since the organization of Arab countries could affect the balance of power in the region.

Interest in the countries of the Middle East increased in Japan, which was in dire need of imports of energy and minerals, while the countries of the Middle East region could export oil and gas, as well as liquefied natural gas (LNG) in large quantities.

The economic component is the main one in Japan's relations with the states of the Near and Middle East, but in the 21st century Japan also began to pay significant attention to political and cultural ties with these countries. This is due to the fact that Japan needs to ensure the security of energy logistics through sea routes and expand its influence in the region in all directions. Due to the frequent exacerbations of the situation in the Middle East, transportation through a number of channels becomes unsafe, especially since we are talking about combustible and explosive materials. Therefore, Japan since the early 2000s began to lead a special political line in the region: it sought to demonstrate the Middle East countries that Japan is an independent political actor making independent decisions, and at the same time play the role of a peacemaker between conflicting states, participating in negotiations between them. It relied on good multi-vector bilateral relations with each country in the region.

This was also facilitated by the Constitutional restrictions set out in Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan, since it could only use persuasion tools, not military force, to achieve its foreign policy goals. The country strengthened its public diplomacy and began to act with the use of "soft power" to develop and strengthen its international role in the 21st century. Thus, Japan has made public diplomacy and, in particular, participation in peacekeeping negotiation processes, one of the main directions of its foreign policy, which, according to experts, has led to the fact that "Japan has become a world power in this area" [1].