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East Jerusalem in the category of Israeli national interest (1967-2007)

The subject of the dissertation is an analysis of Israeli policy regarding East Jerusalem presented in the context of implementation of the Israeli national interest. A research procedure adopted by an author is based on two assumptions: 1) an idea of national interest is identified as the state's security and the striving for survival of a sovereign power, 2) the Israeli policy was implemented in a context of the multifaceted material and cultural determinants of Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Arab conflicts. The above assumptions were used to analyze Israel's regarding the territory of East Jerusalem (EJ) policies implemented between 1967-2007— i.e. the area that was incorporated into the state as a consequence of the six-day war in June 1967.

The author forms the main hypothesis that Israel's striving for consolidation of the power over East Jerusalem functioned as the overarching goal of the state's policy. He discusses the following two research questions: to what extent Israel's actions on East Jerusalem were able to fulfill states' objectives and whether an implementation of this objectives was in line with the interests of the state?

Following issues are discussed to answer the above questions: control over EJ recognized as central for a an implementation of Israeli security doctrine; legal and international consequences of an administrative unification of EJ with the territory of the state; Israeli and Palestinian aspirations towards the city's territory; Israeli territorial, demographic and ethno-cultural policies aimed to strengthen its de facto sovereignty in EJ; Israeli policies aimed at sanctioning its authority in a legal dimension, including undertaken as part of the Middle East peace process.

An analysis of the above issues allowed the author to formulate conclusions supporting the main hypothesis as well as to answer to the research questions. It was pointed out that: 1) the aims of Israeli policy regarding EJ were implemented only partially, 2) the Israeli policies in EJ contributed to deepening of the ethno-political polarization in Jerusalem, and thus to maintaining the viability of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.