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INFORMATIONAL ASPECT OF THE TWITTER-REVOLUTION 2010 IN KYRGYZSTAN

Today the Central Asia has a «power vacuum» in the political sphere. In the absence of forces that would influence the situation from outside of the region, numerous conflicts might occur [1].

It is unrealistic to discuss the Central Asian entering in global economic and information systems without informational component. Information policy as the system can not be shaped isolated from the socio-economic strategy. If the state does not impact these processes, or allows the expansion of information in national space, it will lose the leverage over the country [2].

However, due to the traditional authoritarian system in the region, the authorities often speculate on the notion of information security, in order to limit freedom of expression and circulation of information in their countries. In particular, it concerns the introduction of criminal responsibility of journalists for the distribution of false or defamatory information over the Internet. The openness and freedom of information exchange are always officially declared, although in fact any opposition paper may be assessed as the «libel» [3].

But the factors of information warfare are worldwide, including in the Central Asia, and they found their realization in context of the events of 2010 in Kyrgyzstan. The information era has changed the way of ideological wars, thus providing an unprecedented amount of information to the population. The process of information is developing rapidly and unpredictably.

It is clear on the example of Kyrgyzstan, that information warfare and ideological resistance are the main and decisive way to achieve geo-strategic goals of many world powers for influence in Central Asian region [4].

If we analyze the 2010 revolution in Kyrgyzstan in terms of information security, one can distinguish some basic characteristics of information industry of the country that led to this escalation of events:

• the countering to information challenges and threats in Kyrgyzstan is carried out by the various agencies whose activities are not coordinated [5];

• the failure of government policy to attract moral and intellectual potential of Islam in the process of democratic reforms, to engage moderate Islamic leaders in combating the ideology of religious extremism through the use of Internet network, video and print media [6];

• solidly corrupted authoritarian regime, which can not be fully involved in educational opportunities and counter-propaganda activities [7].

The reason for the success of the revolution in Kyrgyzstan lies in the information component. Kyrgyz events were «another twitter-revolution», whose success lies in the active use of Internet space. In connection with its precise character (140 words) micro blog must be accurate, essential and very efficient, thus becoming a precision information weapon of new generation.

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In early April 2010 this type of political tool has proved its power and effectiveness, becoming quick source of information about events that occurred during the coup in Kyrgyzstan. As the information is not neutral, in contrast, always emotionally and ideologically charged, it always shows only one point of view, and in the information vacuum, which was filling, seemingly spontaneously, the most promptly suggested interpretation becomes instantly dominant [8].

The active phase of the campaign in the Kyrgyzstan started on April 7 at 12:20 with the tweet of User otunbayeva (the current President of Kyrgyzstan Rosa Otunbayeva): «We are requiring the immediate liberation of all opposition leaders». It must have been the first revolution in the world, launched from a mobile phone.

Despite the predicted spontaneous revolutionary events, preparation for the campaign began well before April 7. The appearance of tag # freekg in Twitter, as well as site-relay communications with this tag: http://freekg.net, was registered on 27 March 2010. Most Twitter accounts that worked on the tag were registered in mid-March 2010, many accounts have been reported to be active in 2009, but the activity in micro-blog was not detected until April 7. Number of the main micro-blogs, which were covering the events, is about 150.

The most effective means of information proved to be were links to photos and videos. These are the most popular traditional online resources. Also the two types of messages were highlighted: the events (Its raining, people are returning to Ala-Tha), and slogans and appeals (Bakiev, stop shooting at your own people! You will never be forgiven!) The last type of messages is unusual for Twitter, but is actively used in media campaigns, even though for a long time the leaders of the «old regime» did not rush to indicate their presence in the new media.

The nature of the micro-blogging is also important for the analysis: in daylight hours, 7 and April 8, there were many messages in Russian, at night – in English. Messages in Chinese and Kyrgyz languages were of marginal character; their number was not dependent on time of day.

Kyrgyz media campaign at Twitter has substantially surpassed the similar campaign during the Moldavian events in 2009, called the first Twitter-revolution, but is somewhat inferior in terms of resonance and coverage of Twitter Iranian events of that year.

The problems in information relationship in the Central Asian states are complicated enough, taking into account the globalization trend of recent years and escalation of interstate and intrastate relations.

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