HISTORICAL ASPECT OF SEPARATISM IN CATALONIA

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Abstract
The ethno-political conflict between the people of Catalonia and Spanish government, which is based on the struggle for equality for Catalans and Spaniards along with separatism movement, occupies a very important place in the domestic political life of the country [1].

Catalonia (Latin: Catalonia; Catalan: Catalunya; Spanish: Cataluna) is a historical region and autonomous community in northeastern Spain. Includes the provinces of Barcelona, Girona, Lleida, Terragon. The population of Catalonia is 7.2 million. More than 65% of them are ethnic Catalans [2].

Catalonia was founded in 988. In that year the Count of Barcelona refused to take an oath of allegiance to the monarch Hugo Carpet, under whose patronage these lands were. Over the next few centuries, Catalonia became on the most important regions in Europe. In the 16th century, the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon were formally united into the Kingdom of Spain. It significantly reduces the economic and political importance of Catalonia [3].

The War of the Spanish Succession (1705-1714) led to the abolition of Catalan autonomy. After the fall of Barcelona, the Catalan constitution was repeated, Catalan universities were closed and the use of the Catalan language in office work was banned for two and a half centuries. Catalan was forbidden to teach even in primary and secondary schools [4, p. 387].

At the beginning of the XX century, as a result of unsuccessful reforms of the Conservative government, we can notice an increase of radical nationalist sentiments and terrorism in the largest cities of Catalonia. In 1923, with the tacit support of the king, a coup took place in the country, and power was in the hands of General Primo de Rivera. Ideologically, the dictatorial regime pursued a course to encourage «state nationalism», the ideological platform of which was to unite the country's citizens on the basis of national values. This policy was directed against regional nationalists, especially in Catalonia [5, p. 12].

The adoption of the 1978 Constitution was a revolutionary step for a country that had been under the oppression of the Franco regime for almost 40 years.
Constitution not only recognizes the existence of different nationalities in the country and their right to autonomy, but also devotes a whole chapter 8 to it [6].

Catalonia was the first to restore its former autonomous rights. After the general democratic elections of 1977, the King issued a special decree to resume the Generalitat. On October 25, 1979 Catalans voted for a new autonomous statute, which defined Catalonia as a nationality and Catalan as the official national language of autonomy [7].

Catalonia is the most industrialized part of the country. It has broad powers, including local self-government, entrepreneurship, transport, communications, public safety (in Catalonia, as in the Basque Country, its police are not subordinated to Madrid), as well as education, culture, language policy and security, etc. [8].

Conclusions. Ethno-political conflict in Catalonia has a long history and certain features. The long struggle of the people of Catalonia for equality was caused by a number of political, economic and social factors. The result of this struggle was the adoption of the Constitution, which for the first time took into account their interests and the right to self-determination.

References: